

# JUŽNA SRBIJA

5 dana – autobusom ili kolima

## PROGRAM PUTOVANJA:

**1.dan BEOGRAD.** Sletanje na aerodrom Nikola Tesla. Transfer do hotela. Večera. Noćenje.

**2.dan BEOGRAD. Doručak.** Polazak u razgledanje grada autobusom i pešice. Beograd glavni grad Srbije, jedan od najstarijih gradova u Evropi koji je od davnina poznat kao značajno saobraćajno čvorište i kao raskrsnica puteva Istočne i Zapadne Evrope. Beograd leži na dve međunarodne reke, na ušću reke Save u Dunav i vode reka ga opasuju sa tri strane. Zbog takvog položaja, sa pravom je nazivan "kapijom Balkana" i "vratima Srednje Evrope". Najstariji arheološki nalazi sa njegovog područja sežu u peti milenijum pre nove ere. U strogom centru Beograda ispod današnje Palate Albanije pronađeni su tokom njene gradnje 1938 godine skeleti neandertalca koji je poginuo u borbi sa mamutom čiji je skelet nađen u blizini, što govori o naseljenosti prostora današnjeg Beograda još u praistorijsko doba. Na obali Dunava nalazi se praistorijski lokalitet Vinča, sa ostacima materijalne kulture praistorijskog čoveka. Pripadnici keltskog plemena su osnovali Singidunum u 3. veku pre nove ere, a ovaj grad se pominje i u antičkim izvorima. Kasnije, ovu teritoriju osvajaju Rimljani, a podelom Rimskog carstva 395. godine on postaje deo Vizantije. Sloveni su u 6. veku sve češće prelazili Dunav i trajno ostajali na ovom području, i tako je na kamenitoj uzvisini iznad ušća Save i nastalo njihovo naselje – Beli Grad. Naziv Beograd se prvi put pominje 878. godine. Godine 1403. despot Stefan Lazarević veštim diplomatskim potezima dobija Beograd od Ugara i on tada po prvi put dobija status srpske prestonice. **Beogradska tvrđava** je najstariji kulturno-istorijski spomenik Beograda- utvrđenje koje datira još iz prvog milenijuma, sagrađena je prvobitno kao palisada sa zemljanim bedemima ali se tokom vekova razvijala. Beograd koji danas poznajemo razvijao se oko ovog monumentalnog istorijskog zdanja, Boemska četvrt **Skadarlija** u centru grada, **Konak kneginje LJubice** - gradnja Konaka kneginje Ljubice započeta je 1829. godine, a završena 1830. godine i danas je jedan od retkih primera građanske arhitekture tog perioda, **Kapetan Mišino zdanje**-jedna od najpoznatijih građevina devetnaestog veka u Beogradu, u kojoj je smešten Rektorat Univerziteta u Beogradu i deo Filozofskog fakulteta, sagrađena je u periodu od 1857. do 1863. godine, prema planovima češkog arhitekta Jana Nevole. Nakon završetka izgradnje, kapetan Miša je poklonio ovo zdanje svojoj domovini u obrazovne svrhe, **Stari dvor** sa lokacijom u ulici kralja Milana je reprezentativno zdanje u Beogradu koje je podigao kralj Milan Obrenović između 1881. i 1884. godine. U Starom dvoru je između 1903 i 1921. godine živio Petar I Karađorđević, a između 1921. i 1922. kralj Aleksandar I, dok je danas ovo velelepno zdanje sedište Skupštine grada Beograda. **Novi dvor** je velelepno zdanje u kojem se nalazi sedište Predsedništva Republike Srbije. Kao spomenik kulture nalazi se pod zaštitom države. Izgrađen je između 1911. i 1922. godine, a tada je njegova svrha bila isključivo rezidencijalna. **Zdanje Narodne skupštine**- prvi projekat skupštine izradio je Konstantin Jovanović 1891. godine. Međutim zbog političkih događaja i ekonomskih uslova gradnja objekta je odložena nekoliko godina, i tada je poverena arhitekti Jovanu Ilkiću, pobedniku na novoraspisanom konkursu za projektovanje zgrade Narodne skupštine Srbije. Zvaničan početak gradnje palate označen je polaganjem kamna temeljca 27. avgusta 1907. godine u prisustvu kralja Petra I Karađorđevića i prestolonaslednika Djordja, narodnih poslanika i diplomatskog kora. **Hram Svetog Save** - je najveći srpski pravoslavni hram na Balkanu, a izgrađen je na mestu gde je Kodža Sinan - paša navodno spalio mošti Svetog Save, osnivača srpske pravoslavne crkve. Izgradnja hrama otpočeta je 15. Septembra 1935. godine, a tada je patrijarh Varnava izvršio osvećenje temelja. **Crkva Svetog Marka** izgrađena je između 1931. i 1940. godine ali je izbijanje Drugog Svetskog rata pomelo izgradnju, u tom periodu izvršeni su samo građevinski radovi Crkva Svetog Marka izgrađena je u srpsko-vizantijskom stilu, po modelu manastira Gračanica..... **Ručak.** Odlazak za Zemun. Nekada zaseban grad Zemun, a danas opština u sastavu Grada Beograda, je u 3. veku pre nove ere ovaj kraj je naselilo keltsko pleme Skordisci i nazvalo ga Taurunum. Najviša tačka Zemuna je brdo Gardoš, sa koga se pruža pogled na ceo Zemun, Dunav i centar Beograda. Tu je i 36 metara visoka Milenijumska kula, poznata i kao Kula Sibinjanin Janka, koju su 1896. podigle mađarske vlasti. Oblast oko Gardoša prepoznatljiva je po uskim ulicama sa kaldrmom i specifičnoj arhitekturi. U podnožju, na Zemunskom keju na obali Dunava nalaze se brojni restorani sa živom muzikom, kafići i klubovi. To je i popularno šetalište, stecište lokalnih alasa i umetnika, uz marine za čamce i galerije. Beograd ima toliko mnogo tajni jedna od njih krije ceo grad ispred površine grada, više od stotina pećina, kanala, tunela, pričaju priču o svojoj vezi sa carstvima i državama koje su vladale ovde tokom vekova. U petom veku Beogradsku tvrđavu su uništili Huni i u ranom srednjem veku došlo je do navale varvarskih plemena. Legenda kaže da je čak Atilin grob leži na ušću Dunava i Save tačnije u samom srecu tvrđave. Istoričari tvrde da je prva kafana u Evropi otvorena upravo na Dorćolu davne 1522. Tada se služila samo crna kafa te se pretpostavlja da otuda i potiče i naziv ove srpske institucije. Zbog svoje strateške lokacije na ušću dveju reka, između Zapada i Istoka, Beli grad je oduvek bio poprište istorijskih događaja. Oko Beograda su se vodile bitke u 115 ratova i on je bio sraunjen sa zemljom čak 44 puta. Povtatak u hotel. **Večera.** Noćenje.

**3.dan BEOGRAD - STUDENICA - ŽIČA - VRNJAČKA BANJA (200 km).** Doručak. Nedaleko od živopisne klisure reke Ibar, na desnoj obali reke Studenice, opasana visokim zaštitnim zidom, uzdiže se manastir **Studenica**, zadužbina velikog župana Stefana Nemanje, utemeljivača nezavisne srpske države i rodonačelnika dinastije koja će vladati Srbijom puna dva veka. Manastir

predstavlja najznačajniji manastirski kompleks srednjovekovne Srbije i veliki duhovni i umetnički centar srpskog naroda. Za nešto više od jedne decenije, od 1183. do 1196. uobličena je najlepša građevina srpske srednjovekovne arhitekture. Od 12. veka kada je osnovana monaška zajednica, Studenica ni u jednom trenutku nije prekidala svoj viševjekovni život. Kao zadužbina i grobnica rodonačelnika dinastije Nemanjić Studenica je služila kao uzor mnogim vladarima ove loze za podizanje mauzoleja koji bi nalikovali Bogorodičinoj crkvi. Bogorodičina crkva se ubraja u najznačajnije spomenike raške graditeljske škole. Originalni spoj vizantijskog prostora i strukture hrama i spoljnih oblika i njihove obrade u belom mermeru, koje potiču iz romanske arhitekture čine Studenicu remek delom srednjoevropske arhitekture. Freske, remek-dela vizantijskog živopisa sa početka 13. veka, obeležile su put srpskog srednjovekovnog slikarstva. U riznici se čuvaju neki od kapitalnih primeraka srpske primenjene umetnosti, kao što su prsten Stefana Nemanje, predmeti od metala, plaštanice, povelje i druge relikvije. Posebno mesto u kompleksu manastira Studenica zauzima Kraljeva crkva, zadužbina kralja Milutina iz 1314. godine, sa zidnim slikarstvom izuzetne prefinjenosti. Sa svojim hramovima, trpezarijama, kulama i konacima Studenica je zadržala svoju prvobitnu funkciju, a kao prvorazredni zakonom zaštićeni spomenik upisan je u Listu svetske kulturne baštine UNESCO-a od 1986. Odlazak za **Žiču** najpoznatiji i najposećeniji manastir u Srbiji, star gotovo osam vekova. Okupan suncem, zaštićen zidinama i okružen ljubavljun monahinja, Žiča je manastir koji mnogi rado posećuju po nekoliko puta u životu. Istorija manastira Žiče počela je onog trenutka kada je sedamanestogodišnji Rastko Nemanjić odlučio da napusti dvor svog oca Stefana Nemanje i posveti se monaškom životu na Svetoj gori Atoskoj. Kada se početkom XIII veka vratio sa Svete gore u Srbiju sa moštima svetog mu roditelja Simeona Mirotočivog, srpska država je bila potrešena sukobom između Stefana i Vukana. Pomirivši zavađenu braću Sveti Sava je zajedno sa Stefanom odlučio da sagradi manastir Žiču kao srpsku carsku lavru. Mesto na kom se gradio manastir bilo je podjednako udaljeno i od Carigrada i od Rima, što je tumačeno tako da je Srbija na raskršću između pravoslavnog Istoka i rimokatoličkog Zapada. Crkva u manastiru Žiči koja je posvećena Hristovom Vaznesenju (Sveti Spas) građena je oko dvadeset godina. Crkva je kao celina predstavljala ne samo manastirski hram već i katedralu prvog srpskog arhiepiskopa. U građenju crkve uočavaju se novine u odnosu na hramove iz vremena Stefana Nemanje. Ovo je manastir bratske ljubavi, jer je kraj moštiju svog oca, svetogorski monah Sava izmirio braću Stefana Nemanjića i Vukana, i tada su se dogovorili o podizanju novog manastira. Ono što svakako ne smete propustiti, jesu očuvane freske. U severnoj i južnoj pevnici očuvani su Apostoli, Raspeće i delovi Skidanja sa krsta, a u najznačajnije spadaju one nastale u periodu od 1309. do 1316. godine. Neke od njih su Uspenje Bogorodice na zapadnom zidu naosa, povelja Stefana Prvovenčanog, portreti Stefana Prvovenčanog i njegovog sina, kao i likovi Apostola Petra i Pavla. Preko osamsto godina postojanja, učinile su da se za ovaj manastirski kompleks vežu mnogobrojna verovanja, predanja i mitovi. Najpoznatija legenda koja je ugrađena i u grb Kraljeva, kaže da će se nakon Stefana Prvovenčanog, u Žiči krunisati još šest kraljeva i za svakoga će biti otvorena a zatim i zazidana po jedna vrata. Zbog toga je i ostao naziv "sedmovrata Žiča". **Ručak.** Odlazak za **Vrnjačku Banju** najveće i najpoznatije banjско lečilište u Srbiji a i šire i tradicionalno vrlo privlačan turististički centar za odmor i rekreaciju. Istorija korišćenja vrnjacakih mineralnih voda seže u duboku prošlost, u vreme kada su ove prostore naseljavali keltski Skordisci. Posle rimskog osvajanja Balkana u poslednjim vekovima stare ere i nekoliko vekova nove ere mineralne vode su korišćene za piće i kupanje, o čemu svedoci pronađeni rimski izvor vrnjacke tople mineralne vode 1924. godine i mnoštvo novčića sa likovima rimskih imperatora. Vrlo je verovatno da se u srednjem veku za lekovitost vrnjacakih voda znali i novonaseljeni Sloveni. Postoje pouzdani podaci da su meštani sela Vrnjaca i okoline sredinom 19. veka koristili toplu mineralnu vodu za lečenje; za kupanje i piće koristio ju je i žički vladika Janja. Ipak istorija moderne banje u Vrnjcima vezuje se za 1868. godinu, kada je kruševacki okružni načelnik Pavle Mutavdžić sa nekolicinom dobrotvora i videnijih ljudi iz Kruševca, Karavnovca (Kraljeva) i Trstenika formirali Osnovatelno fundatorsko društvo kiselo-vruće vode u Vrnjcima. Iste godine izvršena je kaptaža dva izvora tople mineralne vode i pocelo se sa izgradnjom banjaskih objekata, pre svega kupatila. Narociti uspon Banja doživljava u godinama pred balkanske ratove. Vrnjackska Banja je tada dobila veliki broj modernih pansiona, izgrađeno je novo kupatilo, radio je jedan bioskop, a u pripremi je bila izgradnja drugog. Pred same ratove pored Vrnjacke Banje prošla je pruga Stalac-Požega, tako da je Banja dobila dobre saobraćajne veze, sa većinom većih gradova u Srbiji. Razvoj zdravstva u Vrnjačkoj Banji ima tradiciju dugu preko 140 godina. Prvi banjaski lekar koji je svojim pacijentima preporučivao lečenje u Vrnjačkoj Banji bio je Josif Pančić, a prvi bolesnik koji se po njegovoj preporuci ovde lečio bio je Pavle Mutavdžić, načelnik Okruga kruševačkog. Bilo je to 1860. godine. Od tog vremena prirodni i balneoklimatološki faktor kojim Vrnjackska Banja obiluje bio je korišćen za lečenje šećerne bolesti, bolesti organa za varenje, bolesti jetre, bolesti mokraćnih organa, bolesti kože, očiju, nervnog sistema, kao i poboljšanje i prevenciju opšteg zdravstvenog stanja pacijenata. Od dvadesetih godina XX veka, kada je Vrnjackska Banja dobila prvi ozbiljni sanatorijum, "Sveti Đorđe", pa do današnjih dana pored upotrebe mineralne vode u zdravstvene svrhe, razvijaju se i ozbiljni centri za hospitalizaciju bolesnika, laboratorije i dijagnostički centri sa opremom koja je najmodernija u oblastima zdravstva u kojima se koristi. Smeštaj u hotel. **Večera.** Noćenje.

**4.dan VRNJAČKA BANJA - DJAVOLJA VAROŠ - PIROT (290 km).** Doručak. Nastavak putovanja. Spomenik prirode „**Đavolja Varoš**“ čine dva, u svetu retka, prirodna fenomena: zemljane figure, kao specifični oblici reljefa koji u prostoru deluju vrlo atraktivno, i dva izvora jako kisele vode sa visokom mineralizacijom. Ova dva u svetu retka prirodna fenomena posmatrana zajedno „**Đavolja Varoš**“ čine pravim svetskim čudom prirode. Atraktivnost dva nevidena čuda prirode dopunjuju okolni prirodni ambijent koji oko zemljanih figura deluje surovo, skoro mistično, a u širem okruženju živopisno i pitomo, kao i ostaci naselja, stare crkve, groblja i nekoliko zanimljivih rudarskih jama. Lokalitet „**Đavolja Varoš**“ je stavljen pod zaštitu države još 1959. godine, a 1995. godine je Uredbom Vlade Republike Srbije proglašen za prirodno dobro od izuzetnog značaja i stavljen u prvu kategoriju zaštite - spomenik prirode. **Ručak.** Od IV veka kada se **Pirot** prvi put pominje kao antičko naselje Tures, kroz ovaj mali grad su protutnjale mnoge vojske, smenjivala su se različita uređenja i kulture, mešali su se stilovi i umetnički pravci. Svi oni su za sobom ostavljali neizbrisive istorijske tragove koji danas u spoju sa modernim dobom, čine Pirot jedinstvenim mestom gde se prožimaju staro i novo, tradicija i modernizam, istočnjačko i zapadno. Pazar i Tijabara su dva dela Pirota koje Nišava deli, a spajaju tri mosta:

Gazela, Golemi i Ljubavni most. Šetnjom pored reke imaćete priliku da upoznate grad na jedinstven način i iz drugačijeg ugla. Pogled na građevine raznolikih stilova, okolnu prirodu i Nišavu koja je svojim tokom nehotice razdvojila stari i novi deo grada, približiće vam atmosferu i duh ovog mesta. Smeštaj u hotel. **Večera**. Noćenje.

**5.dan PIROT - NIŠ - BEOGRAD (310 km)**. Doručak. Odlazak za **Niš**, poznat kao mesto rođenja rimskog cara Konstantina, u Nišu se i danas oseća mešavina egzotičnosti Istoka i elegancije Zapada. Danas moderni turistički centar, sa muzejima i istorijskim lokalitetima koji se nalaze na mapi evropskih lokacija koje morate videti, Niš je od svog osnivanja bio kapija koja je povezivala Istok i Zapad. I danas, putevi koji vode kroz Niš, najkraća su veza Evrope sa Bliskim Istokom i gradova kao što su Beč, Budimpešta, Prag sa Istanbulom, Sofijom... Kelti, koji su dali ime ovom starom gradu, krstili su ga po Nišavi, reci na kojoj se i danas nalazi. Na njihovom jeziku, kaže se "Navissos", a znači "Vilina reka". Ovaj grad je tada bio veliki vojni, kulturni i ekonomski centar, ali i mesto u kome se rodio rimski car Konstantin Veliki, vladar koji je proglasio religioznu toleranciju u čitavom Rimskom carstvu i bio prvi vladar koji se preobratio u hrišćanstvo. Ostatke njegove palate i rimskog lokaliteta "Mediana" trebalo bi da posete svi ljubitelji istorije i starog Rima – bilo da su o tome čitali knjige ili gledali najnovije serije i filmove o ovom periodu. Obilazak "carevog grada" pomoći će vam da ove dane ponovo oživite! Niška tvrđava – najočuvaniju tursku tvrđavu u ovom delu Balkana, Čele kula – jedinstvenu građevinu napravljenu po naređenju otomanskog Huršid-paše od lobanja boraca izginulih u bitci na Čegru tokom Prvog srpskog ustanka. Povratak za Beograd. Dolazak oko 20 sati.

PUTNIK TRAVEL

# SOUTH SERBIA

5 days – by bus or by car

## TRAVEL PROGRAM:

**1.dan BELGRADE.** Landing at the airport Nikola Tesla. Transfer to the hotel. Dinner. Overnight stay.

**2.dan BELGRADE.** Breakfast. Departure of sightseeing city tour by bus and on foot. Belgrade, the capital of Serbia, is one of the oldest cities in Europe which has been a crucial junction since times before and a crossroad between East and West Europe. Belgrade lays on two international rivers, on the delta of Sava and Danube and the river waters surround it from three sides. Its location rightfully earned it a nickname "the gate to Balkans" and "the door of Central Europe". The oldest archeological findings from this area date to the fifth millennia before Christ. In the historical center of Belgrade, in 1938, during the construction of Albanija Palace and where it still stands today, the remains of a Neanderthal, who died fighting a mammoth, were found. His remains were found in the vicinity, which testifies to an existence of a habitat on the territory of today's Belgrade even in the prehistoric times. On the river bank of Danube a prehistoric settlement Vinca can be found, with the remains of artifacts of a prehistoric man. A Celtic tribe has founded Singidunum in 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC and the city is even mentioned in some ancient sources. Later on, this territory was occupied by Romans and with the division of the empire in year 395 it becomes a part of Byzantine Empire. In the 6<sup>th</sup> century the Slavs have started crossing the river more often and then permanently stayed in this area, and so, on the rocky highland over the delta of river Sava their settlement has been created – Beli Grad – White City. The name Belgrade is mentioned for the first time in year 878. In 1403 Despot Stefan Lazarevic gets Belgrade under his administration by the use of skillful diplomatic negotiations with Hungarians whence the city receives a status of the Serbian capital for the first time. **Belgrade fort** is the oldest cultural and historic monument of Belgrade – the fortification dates since the first millennium, built originally as a palisade with ramparts made of earth that developed over the centuries. Belgrade as we know it today has developed around this monumental historical structure: bohemian quartet **Skadarlija** in the city center, **Konak kneginje Ljubice** – the construction of the Konak kneginje Ljubice has started in 1829, and finished in 1830, and today it is one of the rare examples of the urban architecture of that period, **Kapetan Misino zdanje** – one of the most known structures of the nineteenth century Belgrade, where the University of Belgrade and a part of Faculty of Philosophy are situated today, built in the period from 1857 until 1863, according to construction plans of the Check architect Jan Nevol. After the construction has finished, captain Misa has donated the building to his country for the educational purposes, **the Old court** located in the Kralja Milana Street this representative building in Belgrade that was erected by King Milan Obrenovic between 1881 and 1884. King Petar I Karadjordjevic has lived in the old court between year 1903 and 1921, and between 1921 and 1922 king Aleksandar I, while today this magnificent building serves as the Belgrade city council. **The New court** is a majestic building that has housed the headquarters of the Presidency of the Republic of Serbia. As a monument it is now part of cultural heritage and therefore under the protection of the state. It was built between 1911 and 1922, when its purpose was purely residential. **National parliament building** – the first construction plan was made by Konstantin Jovanovic in 1891. However, because of the political events and economic conditions the construction of the building was postponed for a few years, and then it was entrusted to architect Jovan Ilkic, the winner of the newly announced competition for the National Parliament building competition. The official starting date of the construction has been marked by a foundation laying ceremony on the 27<sup>th</sup> of August 1907 in the presence of the King Petar I Karadjordjevic and the heir to the throne Djordje, members of parliament and diplomatic core. **The church of Saint Sava** – is the biggest Serbian orthodox temple on the Balkans and it is built on the spot where Pasha Kodza Sinan had supposedly burnt the remains of Saint Sava, the

founder of the Serbian Orthodox Church. The construction started on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September 1935, when the patriarch Varnava blessed the foundations. **Saint Marko's Church** was built between 1931 and 1940 but the breaking out of the Second World War disrupted it. During that period only the core constructions have been finalized on the Saint Marko's Church, and it was built in a Serbian – Byzantine style, by Gracanica model. **Lunch.** Departure for Zemun. Once a separate town, and today one of the districts within the City of Belgrade, this location was first inhabited by a Celtic tribe Skordians in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC and they named it Taurunum. The highest altitude point in Zemun is the hill Gardos, from which a beautiful panorama of whole of Zemun, Danube and Belgrade center can be seen. Also, a Millennium tower tall 36 meters can be found there, also known as the Tower of Sibirjanin Janko, which was erected in 1896 by Hungarian authorities. The area around Gardos is famous by its narrow, cobblestone streets and specific architecture. At the bottom of the hill on the walk along the Danube quay numerous restaurants with live music, cafes and clubs are situated. This is a famous walk, meeting point of the local fishermen and artists, along the boat marinas and art galleries. Belgrade keeps so many secrets and one of them hides a whole city beneath the surface, more than hundreds of caves, channels, and tunnels tell the story about its connection to the empires and states that ruled these lands over the centuries. In the 5<sup>th</sup> century the fortress was destroyed by the Huns and in the early Middle Ages an invasion of barbaric tribes came to pass. Legend says that Attila the Hun's grave lays on the delta of Sava and Danube, more precisely in the hearth of the fortress. The historians claim that the first tavern in Europe was opened right here on Dorcol in 1522. At the time, only black coffee was served and hence it is suggested that this is where this Serbian word comes from (kafana). Because of its strategic location on the delta of two rivers, between the East and the West, the White City had always been a fertile ground for historical events. The area around Belgrade witnessed battles from 115 wars and the very city was leveled an amazing 44 times. Return to the hotel.

**Dinner.** Overnight stay.

**3.day BELGRADE - STUDENICA - ZICA- VRNJACKA BANJA (200 km). Breakfast.** Not far from the gorge of a lively Ibar river, on the right bank of the Studenica river, surrounded by high protection wall rises a monastery of **Studenica**, foundation building of the Great Zupan Stefan Nemanja, the founder of the independent Serbian state and first of the dynasty that will rule over Serbia for the next two centuries. The monastery represents one of the most important medieval monastery complexes in Serbia and a great spiritual and artistic center of Serbian people. For a little over a decade, from 1183 until 1196, the most beautiful structure of Serbian medieval architecture was shaped. Since the 12<sup>th</sup> century when the monastery community was established, Studenica had never interrupted its centennial activity. As a foundation building and a tomb of the founder of the dynasty Nemanjic Studenica has served as a role model for many rulers of this line for the construction of the mausoleums that would look like Bogorodicina church (Virgin Mary church). Bogorodicina church is among the most important monuments of the Raska architecture school. An original crossover between Byzantine spacing and structure of the temple and the outer shape and its encasing in marble, that originate from roman architecture and make Studenica a master piece of a Central Europe architecture. Frescoes, the master pieces of the Byzantine painting from the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century have traced a way for the Serbian medieval painting. Some of the capital examples of Serbian artisanal works are kept in the treasury, like the ring of Stefan Nemanja, some metallic objects, shrouds, parchments and other relics. The special place in the monastery complex Studenica is taken by the King's church, foundation building of King Milutin dating since 1314, with wall paintings of an exceptional fineness. With its temples, dining rooms, towers and dormitories, Studenica has kept its original function, and as a first class monument it is protected by law and on the UNESCO world heritage sites list since 1986. Departure for **Zica** the most famous and the most visited monastery in Serbia, almost eight centuries old. Surrounded by sunlight, protected by the walls, and cherished by its nuns, Zica is the monastery that many visit multiple times in their life. The history of the Zica monastery starts when seventeen year old Rastko Nemanjic decides to abandon the court of his father Stefan Nemanja and to devote himself to the monastery life on the Mount Athos. When he returned from Mount Athos at the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century with the remains of his saint father Simeona Mirocovi, the Serbian state was shaken by the conflicts between Stefan and Vukan. Reconciling the fighting brothers Saint Sava has decided together with Stefan to build Zica as an imperial monastery settlement. The place that was chosen is on the exact same distance from Constantinople as it is from Rome, which is interpreted as Serbia being on the crossroads between Orthodox East and Catholic West. The church in the monastery that is consecrated to the Ascension of Jesus (Sveti Spas) was being built for about twenty years. The church as a whole represented not only the monastery temple but also a cathedral of the first Serbian Archbishop. Some new things can be spotted in the church building comparing to the temples of the Stefan Nemanja period. This is the monastery of the brotherly love, because Saint Sava, a monk from Mount Athos reconciled his brothers Stefan Nemanjic and Vukan over the remains of their father, and that is when they agreed upon building this monastery. The things you just cannot miss are the preserved frescoes. In the north and the south transept apostles and crucifixion are preserved completely and Descent from the cross partially preserved, and one of the most important are those made in the period between 1309 and 1316. Some of them are the Ascension of the Virgin Mary on the western wall of the nave, charter of Stefan Prvovencani, portraits of Stefan Prvovencani and his son, as well as the images of Apostles Petar and Pavle. Over eight hundred years of existence, the time has made that this monastery becomes linked to many beliefs, legends and myths. The most famous says that after the coronation of Stefan Prvovencani, another six kings would be crowned there and for each and every one of them a separate door would be opened and then walled up again. For that reason the popular name "seven door Zica" was made. **Lunch.** Departure for **Vrnjacka Banja**, the biggest and the most famous healing spa in Serbia and surroundings and traditionally very attractive tourist destination for relaxing and recreation. The history of use of mineral water springs of Vrnjacka Banja date back to the old times, when the Celtic tribe named Scordians lived here. After the Roman conquest of Balkans in the last centuries of the old era and a few centuries of the new era the mineral waters are used for drinking and bathing. The proof is the Roman spring of hot, mineral, Vrnjacka water discovered in 1924 as well as the numerous coins with images of roman emperors on them. It is very likely that in the medieval period new coming Slavs have heard of the healing properties of Vrnjacka water. There are reliable sources stating that in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century hot mineral water was used by the residents of the Vrnjaca village and the surrounding areas for healing; Janja, the bishop of Zica used it for bathing and drinking. However, the history of the modern spa in Vrnjci is linked to 1868 when the Krusevac county official Pavle Mutavdzic together with a few notable benefactors and members of the Krusevac, Kraljevo and Trstenik high society, formed Osnovatelno fundatorsko društvo kiselovruce vode ( a society of mineral water) in Vrnjci. The same year the caption of two hot springs was done and the construction of the spa facilities had started bathrooms before all. The spa experiences an exceptional rise of popularity in the years before Balkan wars. Vrnjacka Banja had received at that time a large number of modern apartments, the new bathroom was built, a movie theatre and preparations for the construction of another have been made. Just before the wars, by Vrnjacka Banja the railroad passed on the Stalac-ozega destination, in this manner the Spa got good logistical connection with other parts of Serbia. The development of the healthcare has a 140 year long tradition in Vrnjacka Banja. The first spa doctor to recommend Vrnjacka Banja spa treatment to his patients was Josif Pancic, and the first patient who was treated there by his orders was Pavle Mutavdzic, Krusevac county official. This was in 1860. Since that time, the natural and balneoclimatic factor, which Vrnjacka Banja spa abounds in, has been used to treat diabetes, digestive tract diseases, liver disease, diseases of the urinary organs, diseases of skin, eyes, nervous system, as well as for the patients' health improvement and prevention. Since the 1920s when Vrnjacka Banja spa got its first real sanatorium, "Sveti Džorde", up to the present days in addition to the use of mineral waters for medical purposes,

there have been developed important centers for hospitalization of patients, laboratory and diagnostic centers with the state-of-the-art equipment in the fields of medical services they are used in. Arrival at the hotel. **Dinner.** Overnight stay.

**4.day VRNJACKA BANJA - DJAVOLJA VAROS - PIROT (290 km).** Breakfast. Continuation of the tour. Natural monument „Djavalja Varos“ is made of two very rare natural phenomenon: earth figures, like a specific relief shapes that look very attractive in space, and two springs of high mineral coefficient. These two rare phenomena together make Djavalja Varos a real wonder of the nature. The attire of these two natural wonders occupy the surrounding natural surroundings that seem untamed around the earth figures, almost mystical, and in the wider surroundings lively and calm, like the remains of a town, an old church, cemetery and a few interesting mining pits. The site „Djavalja Varos“ has been placed under the protection of the state in 1959 and in 1995 by the Resolution of the government of the Republic of Serbia it was proclaimed a nation heritage and was placed in the first category of protection – natural monument. **Lunch.** Since 4<sup>th</sup> century when **Pirot** is mentioned for the first time as the antique settlement Tures, many armies have stormed through this small town, different cultures and states came one after another, architectural styles and art movements were mixed. They all left behind a permanent historical trace that today in the connection with the modern age make Pirot the unique place where old and new, tradition and modernism, eastern and western intertwine. Pazar and Tijabara are the two parts of Pirot separated by Nisava River and connected with three bridges: Gazela, Golemi and Ljubavni most (Love bridge). Walking by the river you will have an opportunity to get to know this town in a unique way and from a different angle. View of the different style structures, surrounding environment, and Nisava that seemingly separates the new from the old part of town, will bring you closer to the atmosphere and the spirit of the place. Arrival at the hotel. **Dinner.** Overnight stay.

**5.day PIROT - NIS - BEOGRAD (310 km).** Breakfast. Departure for **Nis**, also known as the birthplace of a Roman Emperor Constantine, in Nis even today a mixture of exotic East and elegant West can be observed. Today a modern tourist center with museums and historical sites that are on European must see maps; Serbian city of Nis has been a gate connecting the East and the West ever since it was established. Even nowadays, driving down the roads through Nis is the shortest way to reach the Middle East from Europe, or cities like Sofia and Istanbul from Vienna, Budapest or Prague. It was the Celts that have named this old city, and they did it after the river Nisava that still runs through it. In their language, its name is Navissos – the Fairy’s river. This city was a major cultural, economic and military center, and the birthplace of Emperor Constantine the Great, who has proclaimed religious tolerance throughout Roman empire and was first ruler of Rome to convert to Christianity. Anyone interested in history and ancient Rome should visit the remains of Emperor Constantine’s palace in “Mediana” – whether they read about it in the books, or watched the latest shown and movies about this period. A tour of the “Emperors city” will help you revive the ancient times! The Nis fortress – best preserved Ottoman fort in this part of the Balkans – or “Cele kula” - “The Skull tower“, a unique structure built by the order of the Ottoman Hursid pasha using the skulls of Serbian soldiers killed in the Battle of Cegar during the First Serbian uprising. **Lunch.** Return to Belgrade. Arrival at around 20h.