

BEAUTY OF SERBIA

8 days – by bus or by car

TRAVEL PROGRAM:

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

2. day 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 3rd 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 6th 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 Czech 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 27th 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 15th 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 3rd 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 5th 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 - FRUSKA GORA - SREMSKI KARLOVCI - PETROVARADIN - NOVI SAD – BELGRADE (205 km). Breakfast. Departure for **Fruska gora**. On the surface 50 km long and 10 km wide on Fruska gora, a mountain in Srem, sixteen Serbian monasteries are situated, out of which more than a half is still active. This unique cultural and historical entity has been proclaimed a Republic of Serbia national heritage site in 1990 and was suggested for the UNESCO's world heritage list. The area of Fruska gora and its surroundings have always been rich in spiritual shrines and during the 16th and 17th century 35 monasteries have been registered. Since the time of their creation, these monasteries have often been pillaged, destroyed and abandoned, but the most serious damage they suffered was during the Second World War. Several monasteries were severely damaged during the NATO bombing in 1999. Tour of the monasteries. **KRUSEDOL**: this monastery was built in 1515 by the Bishop Maksim Brankovic and his mother Angelina. **HOPOVO**: the monastery where Dositej Obradovic, famous Serbian educator, has taken the oath. The rood screen was made by Teodor Kracun. **BEOCIN**: the first reliable source where this monastery was mentioned was in Turkish census from 1566 and 1578. In the beginning of 17th century the church was in ruins. The new temple that exists today was built on the old church grounds by the patronage of M. Milakovic who invested 9.000 forints for that purpose. **JAZAK**: by the popular belief Jazak was founded by Serbian Despot Jovan Brankovic and it exists as a convent since 1774. It is dedicated to the Presentation of Mary. Continuation of the Tour. Scattered between the green hills of Fruska gora and the blue Danube, **Sremski Karlovci** keep the abundant treasure of Serbian culture and spirituality in their priceless, historical structures and on its streets, the wine and the grape are still celebrated by reciting the poetry of Branko Radicevic. Sremski Karlovci is the wine-growing town which has been occupied throughout the history by various nations that found their interest in these lands, enriching this town further more. Each nation that settled here has left a bit of their own culture weaved the common cultural wealth of Sremski Karlovci. It is said that each building, house and street in Sremski Karlovci tells a tale of a famous event or person since it was a spiritual and cultural capital of Serbia. In the magnificent building of a Patriarchy, rood screens have been preserved, made by the well-known Serbian artists Teodor Kracun i Uros Predic. Situated next to the Patriarchy, Congregational church shines white with green domes constructed by Zaharije Orfelin. The church is consecrated to Saint Nicholas and today it holds valuable frescoes, paintings of Paja Jovanovic as well as the remains of Saint Arsenije Sremac, second Serbian Archbishop. Right next to it, a Roman Catholic Church is situated, dedicated to Holy Trinity, dating since 1768. The first Serbian high school was founded in Sremski Karlovci and today can be found in the city center. A Metropolitan bishop Stefan Stratimirovic has founded this high school in 1791, with the permission of emperor Leopold II and with help of the wealthy citizens who invested their own resources in its construction. Various people lived in these lands since the prehistoric period. **Lunch.** Departure for **Petrovaradin**. Petrovaradin fort, which is the symbol of the town, dates since middle ages, but the form that it has today was built and finalized by Austro – Hungarian empire that reigned over this region for a long time. Petrovaradin fort is an outstanding accomplishment in the fortification construction of 18th century, and it represents one of the most complex, biggest and most preserved artillery bastion forts in this part of the Europe. It encompasses the area of the northern slopes of Fruska gora on Danube's right riverbank. With the highest point of 125 meters of altitude, it holds the dominant position over the south-east part of Pannonian Basin. One of the legend says that craftsmen and merchants that did business in the fort, but were denied to settle inside, founded a town that will become one of the most beautiful cities in this part of the Europe in the centuries to come – **Novi Sad** or the "Serbian Athens" as it is called because of its abundant culture and history. Under the Petrovaradin cliff, small Pannonian mountain Fruska gora, a city developed on the Danube, that exists only for some 300 years. It is mentioned for the first time in 1694, two years after the construction of the Petrovaradin fort has started. At the meeting point of three rivers, Danube, Tisa and Sava and at the point where three civilizations confronted, Christian East, Christian West and Islam, numerous ethnic and religious groups found refuge. Serbs called these lands Vojvodina. On the Petrovaradin cliff the Romans erected a fortification that Hungarians later on reconstructed and the Turks maintained. After the banishment of Turks in the late 18th century the Austrians constructed a bridge-head and around it developed a settlement of soldiers, artisans and merchants. At first the town was called Racko-Srpsko selo, and later on Petrovaradinski šanac (Petrovaradin moat). When the town grew bigger, after the end of the wars in the 18th century, the townsfolk, longing for freedom, managed to buy the town off empress Maria Teresa and gain the status of free city under a new name Novi Sad. That took place on the 1st of February 1748. Return to Belgrade. **Dinner.** Overnight stay.

4. day BELGRADE - TOPOLA/OPLENAC – SERBIAN MOUNT ATHOS - SIROGOJNO - ZLATIBOR (240 km). **Breakfast.** Outstanding geographical position of a small town of **Topola**, has created conditions for this miniature settlement of Sumadija to become political and administrative center of the liberated part of Serbia in the times of Karadjordje. Soon after taking up the duties of a king in 1903, King Petar I Karadjordjevic started fulfilling a promise given by his parents to build a mausoleum for the Karadjordjevic dynasty. Financing it out of his own funds guided by numerous, similar mausoleums of European rulers the mausoleum also reflects Orthodox Christian traditions. The king chose the very top of the hill, so called Little Oplenac. The Temple of Saint Djordje and the mausoleum of Karadjordjevic dynasty is constructed on the very top of this shady hill of Oplenac. Continuation of the tour towards Ovčarsko-Kablarska gorge. On the way between Cacak and Titovo Uzice, in the picturesque gorge of West Morava, on and under the mountains of Ovcara and Kablar, **Serbian Mount Athos** can be found. In this gorge 12 relics found their home. On the left bank of West Morava, under the Kablar mountain are following monasteries: Blagovestenje, Ilinje, Jovanje, Nikolje i Uspenje, and under the Ovcara: Vavedenje, Vaznesenje, Preobrazenje, Sveta Trojica i Sretenje. Ilinje is the only unrestored monastery, while the others enjoy a true renaissance of orthodoxy – filled with the prayers of the monks, and are the

locations of pilgrimage and tourist visits. By the monasteries, in the same area, two more shrines can be found: church of Saint Sava and Kadjenica cave, a unique holy memorial site. Most of these monasteries were constructed during the ottoman occupation, when the orthodox worshipers retreated into the mountains, in the reclusive and remote parts of the land. Tour of the monastery Blagovestjenje, located over Ovčar Banja, at the foot of Kablar Mountain. It is speculated that it dates since the times of Nemanjici. For the most part of its history, this monastery was a fully functional church apart from the time when it had to be abandoned because dilapidation. In the 19th century Joakim Vujic founds it burnt by the Turks. In this monastery Patriarch Pavle took oath. Tour of the monastery Sveta Trojica, in silence which is required for the deep state of constant prayer. Monastery Sveta Trojica is situated on the slopes of Ovcar. The oldest record of this monastery dates since 1594/95. Church is single nave structure, and the Raska architecture school influence can be seen. By its architecture it is the most beautiful of all monasteries in the Ovcarsko - Kablarska gorge. **Lunch.** Continuation of the tour towards **Sirogojno** and visiting the museum "Staro selo" - a museum in the open that shows the architecture and interior of the buildings, the manner of works and the organization of family life. It spreads on the area of 5 hectares and counts around 50 exhibits that are dislocated and moved from the surrounding Zlatibor villages. A monument complex of the Church Saint Apostles Petar and Pavle from 18th century and the museum in the open "Staro selo" from 1983 has been put under the protection of the law as the heritage of an exceptional cultural importance. Continuation of the tour towards **Zlatibor**, the most popular mountain in Serbia on all accounts, an attribute given by many things that promotes it as such, in our country but also in Europe and the world. Mild sunny summers, mild sunny winters, the most beautiful springs and warm autumns are the reason of tourist activity throughout the year. Zlatibor is a healing spa, a sports center, ski center, center for cultural events and gathering of people from all sides of the country. It has numerous picnic areas and it is well connected to neighbouring tourist destinations, Drvengrad, Sargan eight, Visegrad, Tara, Drina regatta, Tornik. Arrival at the hotel. **Dinner.** Overnight stay.

5. day ZLATIBOR - SARGAN EIGHT- TARA (80 km). **Breakfast.** Continuation of the tour. **Sargan eight** is the most attractive tourist – museum railway in Europe among the narrow-gauge railways. It is a masterpiece of the world industrial heritage. Built in the period from 1921 until 1925, the planners have solved the altitude difference between Mokra Gora and Sargan (300 meters of altitude, 3,5 kilometers long) by the famous "eight" loop, spreading over 13,5 kilometers, above the base of Jatara, with around twenty tunnels, several bridges and viaducts that consist most of this railway. The train "Cira" has released its first puffs of smoke back in 1925, and it made its last eight loop on the 28th of February 1974, when the railway was closed. ZTP Beograd has started the reconstruction of the Sargan eight in 1999 for touristic purposes and to this day the whole track was reconstructed, with the authentic station structures and with the original cars. The composition Nostalgija is composed of two locomotives and three cars and the panoramic car is in the service of touristic rides, and the stations Jatara and Mokra Gora are adapted for the touristic purposes into facilities in which tourists can relax and refresh themselves during the ride. The ride of the Sargan eight had its appeal in the times when it worked as a regular train line. The steam engine pushed through narrow shady passages and high curves between Sargan and Mokra Gora, on the route that traces an unusual line in the shape of number eight, from more than one spot the passengers had an opportunity to see three tail tracks in different level. Many would panic when they saw a train coming up in front of them, needlessly because there was no danger. The other train was in their own separate rail tracks. Traveling the route of the famous "eight", spread over 13, 5 km, the passenger is practically unable to determine which way the train already passed and which portions are yet to come. Far from the stress of the modern life, rich in nature and natural beauty of this area, this railway, unique in Europe, revives the romantic spirits of the old days by the sound of its steam locomotive. Wildlife surroundings, zigzagging down the bends and turns, tunnels. An adventure that maintains almost forgotten warmth of a bumpy train ride. **Lunch.** Departure for Tara. Mountain Tara has got its name from the Illyrian highlander tribe Autariatae, which lived on its slopes in the Bronze Age. Judging by the diversity and the abundance of the tourist values, preserved ecosystems, mountain relief with a moderate altitude of 800-1500 m, good terrain for winter sports, rich and diverse flora and fauna, mild climate, Drina with its artificial lakes Zaovine and Perucac, give this mountain a great touristic value which rises it to the rank of other famous mountains in Serbia like Zlatibor. Tara is since the 13th of July 1981 a national park, status given by the Parliament of SR Serbia and it spreads on the surface of 24.991,82 hectares. The care of the most beautiful mountain of Western Serbia was entrusted to JP National Park Tara in 1981. It is suggested that the limestone found on the northern slopes of Tara are in fact the shores of the Panonian Sea in the ancient epochs. Because of the mild climate and the inaccessibility a Serbian spruce, a relic and endemic species native to the Balkan peninsula has survived, as well as many other natural monuments, mildly put – the living fossils. Arrival at the hotel. Free time. **Dinner.** Overnight stay.

6. day TARA – CRUISE ON DRINA RIVER- TARA. **Breakfast.** Departure for Perucac – tourist town 13 km away from Bajina Basta, situated on the right riverbank of Drina. In the vicinity you can see a dam of a hydroelectric power station, where the lake starts, 54 km long, whose magnificent canyon spreads all the way to Visegrad. On this 52 km long cruise you will enjoy in the beauty of the nature, in the habitats of plant and animal species of the Tara National Park, in delta of rivers Zepa and Drina, we will pass through the most narrow part of the canyon, through Stari Brod campsite, next to the minor streams and rivers, medieval fortifications... On the right and partly on the left bank of Drina, on the both sides of Rzava, that joins Drina in a delta, on the east of Bosnia and Herzegovina lays Visegrad city. The biggest attraction of this city represents a bridge over Drina, that Mehmed-pasha Sokolovic built in 1571 and which was described by Ivo Andric in his Nobel prize winning novel The Bridge on the Drina. Since 2014 Andricgrad is opened for visitors, a tourist complex was created as an idea of a director Emir Kusturica inspired by the work and characters of Nobel Prize winner Ivo Andric. The city was built of stone and represents the mixture of different periods and styles that came and went during the history of these parts: Byzantine, Ottoman, Renaissance, Classicism. Cruise down the river that turns and cuts the ground, enjoying the green color that rests the eyes and introduces a true piece in the soul of the observer. The road ends at the hydroelectric power station which is the cause of creation of the artificial lake Perucac. The creation of this artificial

lake did not disturb the primal beauty of this land, but it complemented the postcard of Bajina Basta. **Lunch. Dinner.** Overnight stay.

7.day TARA - STUDENICA - ZICA- VRNJACKA BANJA (240 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 12th 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 13th 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 13th century with the remains of his saint father Simeona Mirotocivi, 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 19th 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 Džorđe", 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.

8. day VRNJACKA BANJA - FELIX ROMULIANA - VIMINACIJUM - BELGRADE (460 km). Breakfast. Departure for Zajecar. Sightseeing of the **Felix Romuliana** site which is an imperial palace constructed after the idea of Roman emperor Galerius Maximilian, on the vast plateau of Gamzigrad, in the vicinity of Zajecar. Galerius, originating from this area built this palace in the 3rd and 4th century for himself and his mother Romula, after whom it was named. It falls under a specific category of Roman palace architecture linked solely to the tetrarchy period and it represents the model of this type of architecture. The palace is surrounded by thick walls that protected the very city – palace from the intrusion of the barbarians. The remains of the older and more recent fortification were discovered, constructed within the timeframe of about ten years. The area between the East and West gate inside the walls was divided into two parts for two different purposes. The northern half was for the imperial palace, a small temple and a monumental altar, while on the southern half some facilities for the public use can be found. (a big temple with two square based crypts and bathrooms) and also the facilities for servicing the palace (horreum and a single nave structure with a porticulus). The structures were abundantly decorated with frescoes, straw ceilings, floor mosaics with figures and geometric patterns. Since the first decade of the 4th century until the middle of the 6th the name, the appearance and the purpose of the complex were being changed. Already in the second half of the 4th century, Romuliana palace is abandoned and falls in ruins, and after the outbreak of Gothic tribes and Huns it becomes a small Byzantine village called Romiliana and is found on the list of the towns reconstructed during the rule of Justinian. Gamzigrad castle has last been inhabited in the 11th century as a fortified Slavic town. Site Gamzigrad - Romulijana was in 2007. Accepted on the list of the world cultural heritage sites by UNESCO. **Lunch.** Continuation of the tour. The military camp at **Viminacium** certainly came into existence when the Roman Empire spread to the Danube area. This probably happened during the early decades of the 1st century AD when the Romans first reached the Danube. The civilian settlement next to the military camp in times of Hadrian's rule (117–138) was granted municipal status, a town with a high level of autonomy. During the reign of Gordian III (239) the town was accorded the status of a Roman citizen colony and the right to mint local currency. Such a status was the highest that could be attained by a town in the Roman Empire. Viminacium was often chosen as a mustering point for troops and a starting point in many a military campaign. The economy of Viminacium developed quickly thanks to its location on the Danube. The exceptional finds made in the necropolises around the town (more than 14,000 graves have been found so far) confirm the belief that its citizens were very wealthy, and frescoes found in the crypts represent the peak of late classical period art. The town was devastated on several occasions, in invasions by the Goths, Huns and finally the Avars. In and around the town there have been discoveries of an amphitheater, monumental buildings, lavish thermae (baths) and the remains of a highly-developed infrastructure, first and foremost streets, aqueducts and a sewage system. The discoveries made so far have very much affirmed the special significance of Viminacium as the leading Roman Metropolis on this part of the Danube Limes. A science – research center Domus Scientiarum in Viminacium is a multitask facility – apart from the fact that scientists from Serbia and all over the world will use its cabinets, libraries, atriums for their research, work with students, summer schools, organization of congresses and thematic gatherings – at the same time it serves as an accommodation for tourists that increasingly show interest for staying at Viminacium. Domus Scientiarum represents the peak of the offer in the archeological tourism, with the unique atmosphere of the ancient Rome, where the visitor can be anything they want – an archeologist, a legionnaire or the emperor. Return to Belgrade at around 20h

PUTNIK

TRAVEL