


World Federation of
Tourist Guide Associations**19TH WFTGA**
NOVI SAD 2021
SERBIA19TH CONVENTION WORLD FEDERATION
OF TOURIST GUIDE ASSOCIATIONS
**NEWS
LETTER #2**
DECEMBER
2019

Welcome to Vojvodina

 The WFTGA 19th Convention is going to be hosted in the city of Novi Sad, capital of Vojvodina, one of the two autonomous provinces in Serbia. Geographically, the whole territory is the part of the vast Central European Pannonian Basin. In Vojvodina this plain consists of mostly fertile soil. Vojvodina's 3 regions, Srem, Banat and Bačka, are divided by a dense river and canal system, and have served for centuries as a strategic geopolitical centre. Novi Sad, for example, has 11 bridges connected to the Petrovaradin Fortress. Today 8 of these are underwater. These bridges are witness to many nations which crossed them, and some, 26 and counting, have stayed, adding to the diversity in its material and intangible cultural heritage. Vojvodina has existed for 3 centuries already. Its name derives from the Serbian word for duchy, as it was a province in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. In every city of the province you can enjoy architecture from different periods: Baroque, Secession, Bauhaus and Socialist Classism/ Soviet. This mix is in Vojvodina's taste buds, ears and eyes, and it is literally in its nature. In Vojvodina everything flows like our rivers – slow, and steady, with a colourful breeze of hedonism. Multicultural and intercultural everyday life makes this a very special place to visit. Novi Sad was and will always be of a standard we are proud of!

Welcome to Vojvodina!
Dobrodošli u Vojvodinu!

Ivana Ćuruvija and the Team

Welcome to
Serbia



SAVE THE DATES:

-  **PRE-CONVENTION TOUR**
29 January – 2 February 2021
-  **DELEGATES PRE-CONVENTION TOUR**
29 January – 1 February 2021
-  **WFTGA 19TH CONVENTION**
3 February – 7 February 2021
-  **POST-CONVENTION TOUR**
7 February – 10 February 2021

Welcome to Novi Sad



Theme of the convention

WATER THAT GUIDES US

Srećni praznici!
Happy holidays!

Although the whole year is filled with different events, the holiday season is very special in Vojvodina: we celebrate everything twice! Two Christmases, two New Years, two Santas, two calendars, two more weeks' worth of holidays! Our Christmas market is in the top 10 European Christmas markets for 2020.

Novi Sad grew in the shadows of the Petrovaradin Fortress, built for the Austro-Hungarian Emperor. From a swamp it became a functional city of culture, and its nickname the "Serbian Athens" is used to this day. Novi Sad was at the center of Serbian culture and it continues in this role, named European Capital of Youth in 2019 and European Capital of Culture in 2021. These accolades are testament of a developing city, caring for the past and open to the new. Novi Sad is EASY because it is a small city. Our residents are quite relaxed, we even speak slowly when compared to the other parts of Serbia. If you ask where is something in Novi Sad, the further destination is usually 'only 20 minutes from here'. We would have to give you a disclaimer here, though, our 20 minutes aren't always the same as your 20 minutes. We do walk, and bike a lot, despite having fine public transport connections.

SOS Holiday vocabulary

Srećna Nova Godina! /srêtena nôva gôdina/
Happy New Year!

Srećan Božić! /srêtean bôžite/
Merry Christmas!

Sve najbolje! – All the best!

Kuvano vino – Mulled wine

Živeli! – Cheers!

*don't forget that we kiss **THREE TIMES** when greeting someone



Pre Tour

CENTRAL AND WESTERN SERBIA

During the pre Convention tour we want to show you some of the best known attractions from our Serbian royal history, together with more contemporary attractions. Central and Western Serbia are known as the original homes of the Serbian royal families since the early medieval period, and mountains have many native plants thriving in the forests. Wooden made goods are a craft tradition followed to this day not to be missed.



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OPLENAC is a small city in Central Serbia known as the place of origin of the Karađorđević dynasty. Here is St. George's Church, known for its mosaics and unique carpentry, as well as the royal mausoleum.



VRNJCI SPA is one of the most famous and oldest spas in Serbia, used since the Roman times. Its thermal springs have different temperatures, due to the different levels of solids in the water. Water in Vrnjci Spa is known for its healing properties and attracts both spa and medical tourism.



ZLATIBOR is the Serbian lung, and the mountain's name meaning Golden pine comes from its amazing forests, making Zlatibor a special spa – an aerial spa within a nature park. The snow turns this mountain into a ski resort in the Winter and a place for healthy hikes the rest of the year, a favourite vacation spot for Serbians.



ŠARGAN 8 is a narrow-gauge heritage railway, running from the village of Mokra Gora to Šargan station. This short ride will show you how the life revolved around travelling not so very long ago. The views, the picturesque old stations, many tunnels and bridges will remain an exciting memory for all.



Post Tour

EASTERN SERBIA

For the post Convention tour let us guide you through the roots of the Roman Empire and the ancient course of the Danube, through the canyons of Eastern Serbia, and the secrets of the surrounding mountains carved in the caves like Prekonoška. Eastern Serbia is regionally known for its dash of ancient magic, and worldwide for its ancient and historical sites, the strength of the Danube as a source for energy, complimented by the silence in the caves and monasteries.



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LAKE BOR is a popular weekend spot if you are based in Belgrade and want some peace and quiet. It is an artificial lake formed after the Second World War for industrial purposes, and has been kept because of its staggering beauty. Its name derives from the nearby industrial city, Bor.



DERDAP GORGE is the longest and the biggest gorge in Europe. It has been protected as the Đerdap National Park. Part of it has been turned into a lake and is famous for the Iron Gate, the largest dam on the Danube and one of the largest hydroelectric plants in Europe.



MANASIJA MONASTERY Manasija or Resava is one of the medieval jewels of Serbia. Built as a medieval fortress by Stefan Lazarević, today it is a Cultural Monument of great importance. Historically, it is famous for its medieval school, still known to this day as Resava School.



NIŠ is the third largest city in Serbia, and where in history the Ottoman and European cultures met. In 2013 it celebrated 1700 years since Constantine's Edict of Milan - Constantine was born here. At least 16 Roman Emperors were born on what is Serbian territory today! Niš is also known as Nišville due to its international jazz festival.





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*When visiting the official Convention website,
you will:*

- read about Serbia and Novi Sad;
- receive information about the Convention itself, venue and the hotel options;
- find details about the pre and post Convention tours;
- check visa requirements (we boast one of the most liberal visa policies in Europe);
- register for the Main Convention;
- register for the pre and post Convention tours;
- register your Accompanying person;
- sign up for newsletters and receive the news first;
- learn some useful Serbian expressions (and we understand if you feel that the food looks too tasty to wait until February 2021).

*Please don't forget to **follow us**
on our official social media accounts*

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Instagram @wftga_convention_2021

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