

# CULTURE TOURS OF SOUTH SERBIA

BLEISURE DMC

SEASON 2023

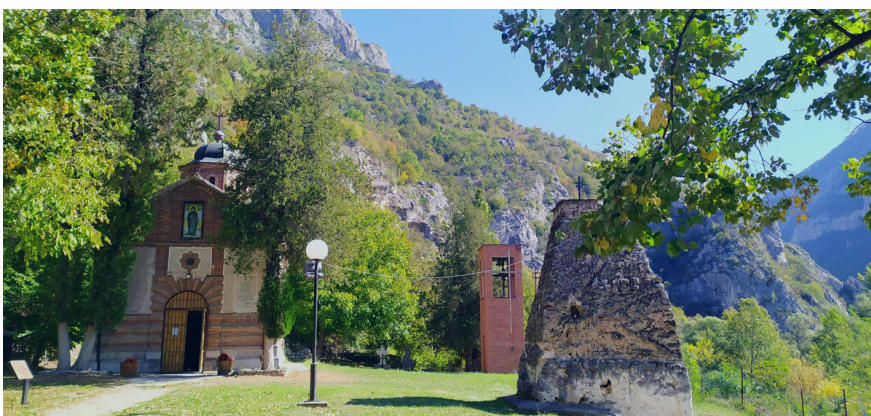
## Great Gifts for Culture Lovers

History / Heritage/ Monasteries /  
Wine & Gastro

Niš, an Imperial City in the heart of the Balkans with a long history, has preserved the remains from prehistory, the time of the Celts, Romans, Byzantium, and the Ottoman Empire. As a crossroads, through which pass two important roads - one for Sofia and Constantinople, always known as "Via Militaris", and the other one for Thessaloniki, in its millennial existence it has been conquered countless times, becoming a museum city and an interesting destination for tourists. Legend has it that, in the 3rd century BC, the Celts called today's Niš Nais, the "Fairy City", inspired by the old pagan belief that river fairies appeared on the Nišava River, which they called Naisa, the Fairy River. In ancient times, Niš was a great cultural, economic, and military seat, and the birthplace of Emperor Constantine the Great, who in the year 313 issued the Edict of Milan, which made Christianity equal to other religions of the Roman Empire.

The monasteries and churches of southern and eastern Serbia are part of the rich heritage of the Serbian people, which was destined for the spiritual, cultural, and educational activities and the national being of the Serbian people. Sharing the fate of the people who built them, the monasteries built in this region used to rise to divine beauty or were destroyed and burned, by numerous conquerors of this part of the Balkans. Their preserved remains continue to radiate divine light that gathered the people to glorify God and gather strength to rebuild monasteries.

The millennial tradition of growing vines in south-eastern Serbia has led to the development of wine routes whose cellars hide the secret of the most beautiful wines of the south. Visiting the wineries, you will surely be enchanted by the natural beauties, history, traditions, and culture of this area.





# SPIRITUAL TREASURES OF NIŠ

BLEISURE DMC

SEASON 2023

## Half day tour / Heritage / Monastery visit / Wine & Gastro

The tour starts at 1 pm if tourists would like dinner in the winery. Also possible to start at 10 am if tourists would like lunch at the winery.

The hill Kamenički Vis and the hill Čegar near Niš, which have been of great importance since ancient times, hide three jewels of the spiritual treasure of this region. Latin Church, the Monastery of St. John from the 14th century, and the Church of St. Petka which was built on the foundations of a Roman church where Stevan Sindjelić's army received communion before the battle of Čegar.

Orthodox Cathedral in Niš has a significant place in Serbian history and art, both in terms of its architecture and its iconostasis. The third-largest in Serbia, this temple is dedicated to the descent of the Holy Spirit - the Holy Trinity. It was made in different styles, Serbian and Romanesque-Byzantine style, Renaissance, and Baroque, there are even styles of Islamic architecture.

The Skull Tower, a unique monument in the world of great importance that testifies tragic history after the battle of Čegar in 1809.

Visit the monument of Čegar and Latin Church, built in the 11th century during the Byzantine rule of this area, on a belvedere with a view of the entire city.

Short walk to the Monastery of St. John, reached by a forest path through a small picturesque canyon. It is believed that people should wash their faces with spring water which has a healing effect and that the icon of St. John has healing powers. Holding time 30 min.

A short walk back and heading to winery Malča.

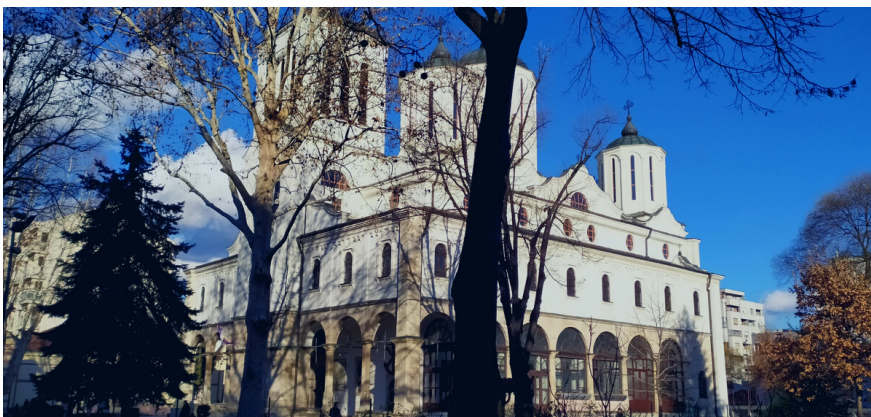
Wine lovers will be able to experience a unique journey through wine time, from Roman times to the present day, in the over 110-year-old wine cellar. In sightseeing and tasting four completely different ways of cultivating wine, you will experience four different wine epochs, characteristic of those times, the Roman, medieval Serbia of the Nemanjić dynasty, the Serbian house, and the modern winery. What makes the Malča cellar recognizable and unique in Serbia is the wine that is aged in amphorae, just like in Roman times.

Lunch/Dinner at the garden restaurant Malča.

### Inclusions:

The tour guide, a ticket for Skull Tower, lunch/dinner with 2 drinks (rakia and a glass of amphorae-aged wine).

**Additional costs:** wine tasting in all four cellars, transportation.





# SPIRITUAL TREASURE OF THE SOUTH

BLEISURE DMC

SEASON 2023

## Whole day tour / 4 Monasteries / The Fortress / Wine & Gastro - Option 1

Departure at 8 am

Visit the Monastery of Holy Mother of God from the 14th century, located at the foot of Kusača hill in the Sićevo Gorge near Niš.

Visit the village of Sićevo known for growing vines since Roman times. Via Militaris - the road that passed here went from Belgrade (Singidunum) through Niš (Naissus), Sofia (Serdica) to Istanbul (Constantinople) is the route that was built through today's Serbia in the 33rd year. Photo shooting at the beautiful views of the gorge, walk around the village, and 30 min wine tasting at the authentic 200 years old cellar.

A quick stop at the **Monastery of St. Paraskeva in Ostrovica village**. After this stop, we are passing through the picturesque Sićevo gorge heading to Pirot City so-called Small Jerusalem because of many monasteries and a large number of pilgrims.

Visit Sukovo Monastery with a very rare fresco of dog-headed St. Christopher, and the fresco of the Virgin with wings.

Visit the Monastery of St. John the Theologian situated in beautiful Jerma Gorge declared a Monument of Culture and Great Importance. According to some sources, the frescoes were made by masters from Northern Greece.

Lunch at the restaurant "Poganovo Monastery" surrounded by the tree forest, located next to the monastery.

Tour of the reconstructed medieval Kale Fortress in Pirot.

Return in the late afternoon.

### Inclusions:

The tour guide, a ticket to Kale Fortress, lunch with 2 drinks, water/juice/beer/wine.

### Additional costs:

Wine tasting, transportation.





# SPIRITUAL TREASURE OF THE SOUTH

BLEISURE DMC

SEASON 2023

## Whole day tour / 4 Monasteries / The Fortress / Wine & Gastro - Option 2

Departure at 8:00 am

Visit the Monastery of Holy Mother of God from the 14th century, located at the foot of Kusača hill in the Sićevo Gorge near Niš.

Visit the village of Sićevo known for growing vines since Roman times. Via Militaris - the road that passed here went from Belgrade (Singidunum) through Niš (Naissus), Sofia (Serdica) to Istanbul (Constantinople) is the route that was built through today's Serbia in the 33rd year. Photo shooting at the beautiful views of the gorge, walk around the village and vineyards, and 30 min wine tasting at the authentic 200 hundred years old cellar.

Tour of the reconstructed medieval Kale Fortress in Pirot.

**Visit the Monastery Temska** from the 11th century dedicated to St. George with significant frescoes. The monastery is located in the beautiful canyon of the river Temštica, which is called "Little Colorado" due to the reddish color of the rocks.

Visit Sukovo Monastery with a very rare fresco of dog-headed St. Christopher, and the fresco of the Virgin with wings.

Visit the Monastery of St. John the Theologian situated in beautiful Jerma Gorge is declared a Monument of Culture and Great Importance. According to some sources, the frescoes were made by masters from Northern Greece.

Lunch at the restaurant "Poganovo Monastery" surrounded by the tree forest, located next to the monastery.

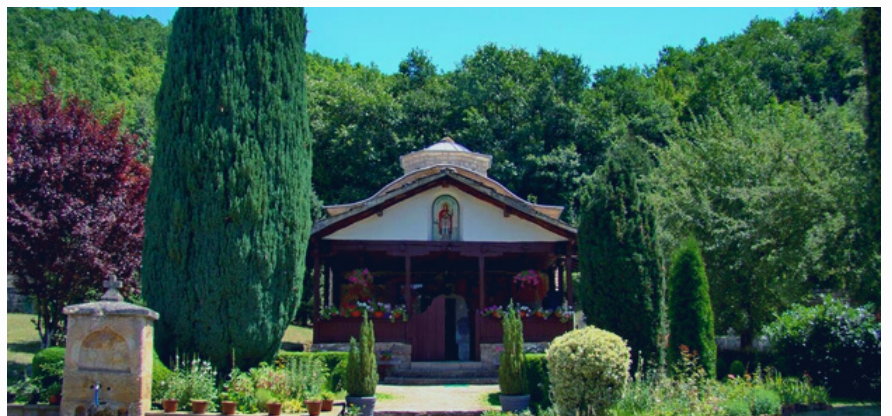
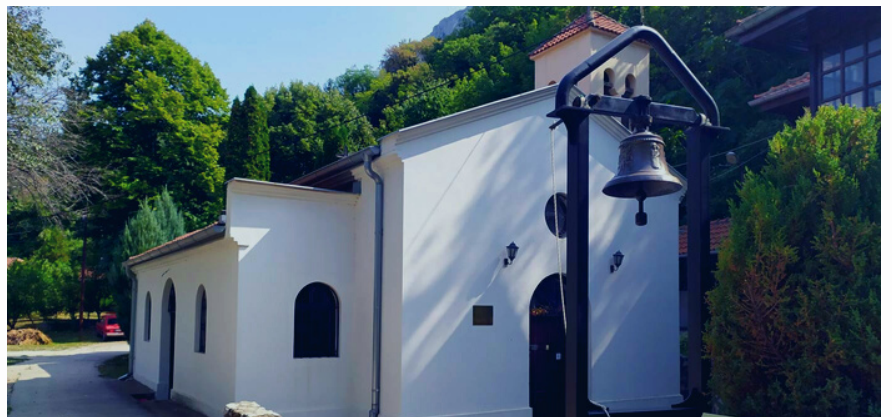
Return in the late afternoon.

### Inclusions:

The tour guide, a ticket to Kale Fortress, lunch with 2 drinks, water/juice/beer/wine.

### Additional costs:

Wine tasting, transportation.





# MIRACLE MONASTERIES & CHURCH OF LOVE

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## Half-day tour / 3 Monasteries / Russian Church

Departure at 10 am

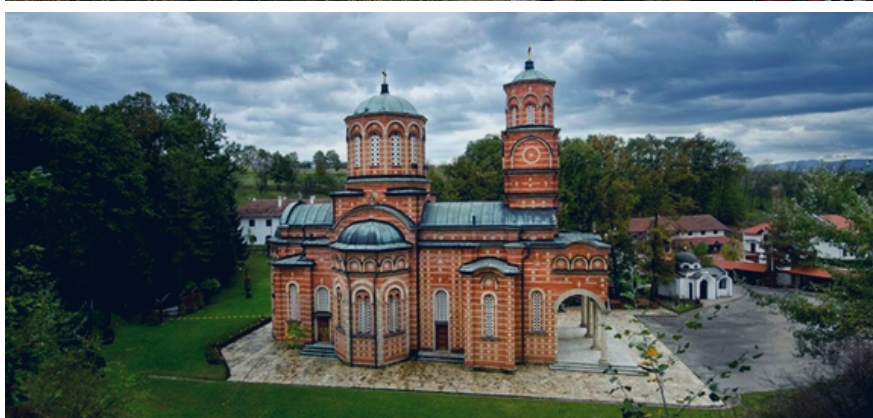
The Monastery Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos in Djunis, one of the most sacred places in Serbia, with a deep belief that can help sick people.

Monastery of St. Roman with two sacred springs for which is believed that can cure eyes and other diseases. Prayers in front of the relics of St. Roman have often been answered so far, so many sick people returned home healthy.

Russian Church also known as Church of Love was built in honor of Colonel Nikolai Nikolajewitsch Rajewski, who was killed at this place. The hero Rajewski whose grave is also here was the inspiration for Tolstoy's famous character Vronsky from the novel Anna Karenina.

Monastery of St. Stefan in Lipovac from the 14th century is declared as Monument of Culture and Great Importance.

Return in the afternoon.



### Inclusions:

The tour guide.

**Additional costs:** Transportation.