



IROMAG

Edition for incoming students



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How to plan a trip in Bosnia and Herzegovina

by IROUNMO

In the last edition we mentioned, that public transportation in Bosnia and Herzegovina is not ideal, but from Sarajevo you can reach many destinations that could interest you. Here is the link where you can access to book your train rides <https://www.zfbh.ba/en/>. A recommendation that not many people know about is, that if you want to make a one-day trip to one of the cities, buying a return ticket gives you 20% of discount. This could save you some money while organizing a day of tourism.

Another option is renting a car and visiting as many places as possible. This is the best option to reach some cities that have no public transportation connections, usually to the destinations in nature such as Kravice Waterfalls.

If you come to Mostar, you will be near Croatia and Montenegro, so you could visit more countries of Eastern Europe in your semester abroad.



10 things to do in Bosnia and Herzegovina

By IROUNMO

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a country that offers different kinds of activity, from history enthusiasts to adventure seekers. Here are some examples

1. Hike as much as you can: to the Hajdučka vrata arch and the canyon of the Bijela River and through the Prenj mountain range
2. Drink Bosnian Coffee
3. Eat Ćevapi
4. Watch the divers in Mostar (Traditional jumps and RedBull Cliff diving)
5. Explore Bosnian nature while rafting
6. Let museums tell you stories about Bosnia and Herzegovina
7. Go on an Olympic tour in Sarajevo
8. Visit the historical bridges of the country: Stari Most, Latin Bridge, and Mehmed Paša Sokolović Bridge
9. Do a bicycle tour in Herzegovinian villages
10. Meet Bosnian people and get to know their culture

Going by bus, in this case, is not a problem, so you just have to choose the city that you want to visit and book the ticket.

Since the country is rich in mountains, it is no wonder that hiking is the most common activity in Bosnia and Herzegovina. If you are not that adventurous, but you would like to see the view from up there, you can reach the top of every mountain around Mostar by taxi, and it will not be expensive.

Finally, you can contact the Erasmus Student Network (ESN) in Mostar. This is a student organization that will help you make your first contact with local people and also get to know their own culture, which includes planning trips together.



Respectful intercultural communication: the key to enjoy a semester abroad

By IROUNMO

Going abroad requires a personal responsibility that goes beyond taking care of the application process or being on time at the airport. Here is the first thing that you have to keep in mind: you are a guest in the new country and as a guest, you should behave with respect towards your hosts. What does it mean in the intercultural communication process? Why is it important? Successful communication is crucial for you to enjoy your semester abroad and this can only be achieved if you manage to go along with respect towards cultural differences that you will encounter. Here are some tips that you should keep in mind and it will improve your communication skills with members of different cultures:



Don't go abroad thinking that your destination will be similar to your own country: If it is true, there are many countries that because of historical reasons share more similarities than others. This does not mean that it will be the same as yours and if you expect to find the same things, why going abroad?

Don't compare: Applying this motto is more difficult than you think. It is human nature to compare, what you should avoid is demeaning the compared aspects in the process.

No country is perfect: the magic of visiting new places is to be amazed by things you've never seen before, but you will encounter for sure things that you dislike. If you start focusing on these aspects, then you will find only the ugly aspects of the new destination and you will miss the best parts.

Don't generalize: in every part of the world, you will find various personalities. If you are close to the stereotypical idea of how people of a certain country are, you will deny yourself seeing the differences among individuals.

You are the guest: immerse yourself in the other cultures and don't expect special treatment if you are not willing to give respect in return

Don't judge: every country has a different story and ways to be, stop judging and try to understand historically and contextually the reason behind some attitudes or cultural aspects.

Be grateful: everywhere in the world, you will find people eager to show you their traditions. Sharing is not an obligation, is a gift, so say thank you.

Choose your words carefully when talking about your host country. Nobody says that you cannot express your opinion, on the contrary, we encourage you to do so, but with empathy and respect. The seven tips will help you to avoid awkward situations while communicating with other cultures. Going on a plane and living for a few months abroad will not broaden your horizons. Moreover, It is a process of adaption and you have to work for it. Begin with your attitude towards the others so you don't get only to see nice landscapes, but also make friends for life.



Meet our Guests!

Interns abroad

By IROUNMO

Helena studies in Santiago de Compostela in Spain to be a primary school teacher with a focus on children with special needs. She is one of the first two interns coming abroad with the Erasmus+ program and she shared her work experience with us here.

1. Mention one thing you dislike and one thing you like about Mostar?

What I like about Mostar is that it allows me to live the life I deserve. Everything is very cheap compared to my hometown, so I go out frequently and enjoy activities that I wouldn't normally do. The thing that has cost me more trouble is that people here don't speak very much English, but it has been ok because I've improved my mimics skills.

2. Why did you decide to do an internship abroad? And how do you think it will help you personally?

I think that going abroad should be mandatory because it is a life-changing experience. My main motivation was to go abroad, so Mostar was a great possibility for that and I'm glad I made that choice.

3. What is your favorite thing about your work?

I love the fact that Bosnian people are so relaxed about everything because it has allowed me to organize things at school, or even teach a class on my own, which would not happen back home at all.



4. How does this internship help you in your future career?

This internship has helped me in gaining experience and this will allow me to find other job experiences, because working at an International school opens many doors for me.

Bosnian Dictionary

How are you?

Thank you

Molim te

Good

Bad

I am sorry

Kako si?

Hvala

Please

Dobro

Loše

Žao mi je/Oprosti