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## **WELCOME TO THE 19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GATHERING OF THE FRIENDS OF SCOUTING IN EUROPE Serbia - 12<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

*This year, we have been invited to Serbia - exactly 10 years after the Group's first visit to this country. Our base will be in Jagodina, a town of some 45,000 inhabitants, situated 135 Km south east of Belgrade, in lush green surroundings often referred to as "the heart of Serbia".*

*This year's tour will give participants a unique chance of really getting behind the scenes, giving a first hand experience of life in Serbia in the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We shall meet and talk to a long row of interesting people in their own environment - and we shall also have rich possibilities to meet local scouts on their home ground. Not forgetting, of course, the unbeatable company of other Friends of Scouting all the way through.*

## Who can participate in the event?

All Friends of Scouting in Europe and their adult family members are welcome, and so are their friends. Availability of accommodation as well as transportation may force organizers to limit the number of participants, therefore be sure to book as early as possible. First come first served.

## Registrations for the event

Please fill in & submit the attached form as soon as possible, but no later than **1<sup>st</sup> August 2017**. Payment info will be sent out upon registration.

**Please observe that we have no access to data on separate, national arrangements in connection to the FOSE meeting (such as e.g. the Swedish *svensketuren*) and that you must therefore register your participation in the FOSE meeting separately, even if you are taking part in such other, additional programme.**

## Duration of the FOSE event

The official programme will start on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> October early afternoon, and end on Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> October after lunch. Please check out the details below. Please advise if your travel arrangements necessitate later arrivals or earlier departures. If so, transfers to and/or from Jagodina will be your own responsibility. We shall, of course, happily advise of adequate means for your individual transportation.

## Be prepared ... notes on travelling to Serbia

Serbia is not yet a member of the EU. Visitors from EU countries are generally (at the time of writing the present programme) exempt of visa requirements, but should bring a passport with a validity of at least 3 months upon entry to Serbia. Visitors from other countries are strongly encouraged to check for possible visa requirements with local consular services in your own country prior to departure.

**The FOSE programme includes transfers between Belgrade and Jagodina as described in the programme below.**

Arrival by air: The international airport of Belgrade is served by a row of international airlines, including a row of budget operators. Participants will receive a fact sheet, also dealing with cheap and efficient transfers from the airport to downtown Belgrade well in advance of the event.

Arrival by train: Belgrade is easily accessible by train - please however observe that the new Belgrade main station is, on the contrary, situated slightly off the beaten track...

By bus: Belgrade's bus station is served by frequent and cheap express buses to and from a long list of European destinations, not least in Germany and Switzerland.

By car: The E75 leads you by a high quality motorway directly from the Hungarian border around Belgrade, and further to Jagodina.

## Be prepared ... notes on insurance

Everybody should check their insurance cover for expenses related to illness and accidents that may occur during your stay in Serbia. A travel cancellation policy might also prove a good idea - our programme is bound up on firm contracts with hotels, caterers and logistics providers, and therefore we cannot offer any refunds in case of a cancellation.

## Be prepared ... notes on clothing and environment

Bring casual clothing for early autumn temperatures (October may actually still be quite pleasant, but rain is not unheard of), and your scout uniform, or a scout neckerchief, as a sign of friendship when meeting scouts. We shall do some walking (not hiking...!), so comfortable shoes would generally be advisable.

Disclaimer: Please observe that bans on smoking are not as wide-spread in Serbia as they are in some other countries. We cannot guarantee that everybody will be accommodated in no-smoking rooms - and smoking may also occur in restaurants and other facilities visited by the group during our stay. Be advised that *yours truly* did not really experience serious trouble during preparations for the tour.

## Costs

### a) Programme

The cost for participation in the full programme (accommodation not included) will be **€ 299**.

The programme will, as usually, be arranged on an **all inclusive basis**, and so the programme fee will cover the group's coach transfer from/to Belgrade as described below, all transportation throughout the week end, all excursions, guides, entrance fees, and (not forgetting) catering inclusive of drinks during meals from Thursday afternoon until farewell time Sunday early afternoon.

It has become a tradition to use any financial surplus from the gathering, should it occur, to sponsor a Scout project, with priority given to a project in the host country.

### b) Accommodation

The group will stay at the **Wing Hotel and Apartments** in Jagodina. Single rooms will be in the hotel block, doubles will be suites in the Apartment block, some 200 metres away from the hotel. The Wing is a modern 4-Star facility, with the apartment block having just opened in the spring of 2017. The complex is built adjacent to the town stadium, a water activities park, the zoo, and other facilities for visitors. The Wing is within 10 minutes of walking distance from Jagodina's busy main street. Friends choosing to go by car to Serbia may enjoy free and safe private parking in front of the hotel.

All rooms are equipped with private toilet/shower, cable TV as well as free and efficient WiFi access. Any use of mini bars will be at own expense, however...

**Accommodation for all 3 nights will cost € 93 per person in single rooms, and € 69 per person sharing double rooms.** Quoted prices include all taxes.

If you want to extend your stay, additional nights at your hotel may be booked in the enclosed form. Such extra nights will be charged at the group rate, but should be paid directly to the hotel upon arrival.





## Programme

### Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October A scouting welcome

In the afternoon, you will be met at the Central Market Place in Belgrade by a clan of rovers who will take small groups for a sightseeing event on foot - the length of which will depend on your individual time of arrival. Bags will be taken care of during this activity.

About 5 pm a coach will take us to Jagodina, After checking in at your hotel, we shall enjoy a welcome dinner at a restaurant on 'top of the town'.



### Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October Jagodina opens her arms to the Group

Friday, we take advantage of the network of the local scouts, and shall have a first-hand introduction to 2017 daily life in a mid-size Serbian provincial town:

- **Going to work with Jagodina.** Like so many other towns in Central and Eastern Europe, Jagodina boomed in the post-war period, mainly thanks to one large factory. For Jagodina, this was the FKS Cable Works, once employing some 10,000 workers - these days, however, only some 650. We shall meet one of the engineers who will tell us a few basics on cables, and a lot about the factory's history as an integrating part of Jagodina - and as the town's provider of power, heating, a fire brigade, affordable housing for workers, and even the town hospital.

- **History lesson continued.** We shall meet the inspector of the town museum who will give us an introduction to Jagodina's older history which he has so often before given to local school children.

- **Developing Jagodina for the future.** We shall meet the town mayor (by the way, a former FKS employee...) who will tell us about the plans for developing the town - and adapting to 21<sup>st</sup> century economy.

- **New business in Jagodina.** We shall visit the 'Piano' winery placed just on the Jagodina city limits as an example of an initiative to develop 'experience economy'. We shall, of course, enjoy a wine tasting there - and this is also where we will be served lunch.

- **Leisure time in Jagodina.** After working hours, a long list of activities is open to Jagodina's inhabitants. After our lunch, we shall visit the **folk dancers** at their training facility, the **alternative cultural centre** which boasts a variety of doings in the field of arts and crafts, as well as the **amateur theatre company** who will demonstrate their abilities in the municipal Jagodina House of Culture.

We shall end the day enjoying a traditional Serbian dinner at a typical local restaurant situated on the edge of the Jagodina Market.





## Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October Track & trace Jagodina Scouts

- **The spiritual dimension.** Saturday, we shall follow one of the tracks used by Jagodina's scouts for hiking. Instead of walking, we shall be taken by car - on board the cult vehicle of Zastava 750, locally nicknamed the 'Ficha'. Our destination will be the Monastery of Joshanica where one of the monks will explain about life in a monastery AD 2017 - just like he has done it to the scouts on several occasions.

- **Community service** On this Saturday, rovers from the area will do a community project in Jagodina, maintaining the town Park after the summer season. We shall have a picnic together, and learn about local scouting.

- **FOSE supported work** 10 years ago, a couple of "small projects" were sponsored in the wake of the FOSE visit to Serbia. What became of these projects? Was the support useful? We shall get eye witness reports of the results. After this, scouts will present their ideas for new projects applying for support.

- **Annual meeting** Back at the hotel, we shall have the FOSE annual meeting, also welcoming new Friends.

- **Farewell dinner** Our traditional *farewell dinner* will be held at a restaurant 5 minutes walk from the hotel - right in the centre of the park that was maintained by Jagodina scouts earlier the same day.



## Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October Back to Belgrade - and a glimpse of the past

Sunday Morning, a coach will take us back to Belgrade. We shall stop at the Josip Broz Tito Mausoleum - and the neighbouring stunning collection of artefacts presented to President Tito by the Nation's official global contacts during his reign as President of Yugoslavia. Trip Advisor calls the complex "one of the best museums in Belgrade". If we have got the time, the Museum of Yugoslav History a couple of minutes down the hill presents varying exhibitions in a very nice setting. We shall have lunch together, and arrange for departures as appropriate.



## What you don't see during the gathering...

As always, we cannot possibly see everything during just a prolonged week end. Those having the possibility to do so, should absolutely take the chance. Serbia is a safe and friendly place for individual travelling. Guide books and tourist agencies will happily lead your way.

Here are a couple of suggestions -



### Monasteries...

...are abundant in Serbia. Near Jagodina is the Ravanica with the tomb of the beheaded king Lazar - whose head is still in Turkish possession. The sarcophagus is opened every year, and it is said that Lazar's shoes get worn, and that his skin is as fresh as still being alive... Legends claim that Serbia will thrive when Lazar one day gets his head back.



### The Lisine waterfalls

An impressive natural phenomenon, just about an hour's drive from Jagodina. Several nice restaurants are found at the foot of the waterfalls, most of which will allow you to pick a trout from their pond and have it done for you.



### Coal mining

Over the years, quite much coal has been mined in Central Serbia. Some mines are still active, and in Senjski Rudnik, there is a fine mining museum in an authentic environment.



### Caves

Near Jelovac, Friends wanting a DEEP insight in Serbia will find a system of caves open to visitors.



### Museum of Naïve Art

Art lovers may enjoy a stroll in Jagodina's very special art museum



### Jagodina Airfield

Those wanting an adrenaline kick as well as a nice view over Jagodina's lush and green surroundings may book a flight on board an ultra light, motorized twin-seater. Up up and away...

The programme is valid as per the date of issue, May 2017. We reserve the right to amendments made necessary by circumstances beyond our control.

## Registration form

To register for the 19<sup>th</sup> annual gathering of the FRIENDS OF SCOUTING IN EUROPE, please fill in the below form, and send it as attachment to a mail to FOSEtours@live.dk. Snail mail to Johansen&Stephansen, Boegevej 5, DK-4070 Kirke Hyllinge is less efficient, more expensive, but of course fully acceptable! You may fill in the form by hand (or even by typewriter if such a device is still available) and send us a scan - or you may write in the WORD document which is also enclosed with the invitation.

Please fill in & return the form as soon as possible, but no later than **1<sup>st</sup> August 2017**. **Payment info will be sent out upon registration. Prompt action will be appreciated as suppliers are waiting for a deposit!**

**YES**, cannot wait to go to Serbia on this year's **FOSE-tour**.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street/City/Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I/we shall **need hotel accommodation**

from (date)\_\_\_\_\_ until (date)\_\_\_\_\_ (a total of \_\_\_\_\_ nights)

I/we will **NOT** join the group transfer from or to Belgrade (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I shall bring family/friends along, and there will be \_\_\_\_ people, including myself

\_\_\_\_ I hereby book \_\_\_\_ (number) of **double rooms** in the name of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ (number) of **single rooms** in the name of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I am travelling on my own, but I would not mind sharing a double room with somebody else

I have the following special dietary requirement (e.g. vegan, vegetarian, vegetarian +fish/poultry, kosher, halal, allergies etc.):

Any further information or comments: \_\_\_\_\_

### **WAIVER AND RELEASE with respect to the 19<sup>th</sup> annual gathering of the Friends of Scouting in Europe (FOSE):**

I/we \_\_\_\_\_ desire to participate voluntarily in the 19<sup>th</sup> annual gathering of the Friends of Scouting in Europe ("Event"). I assume voluntarily all of the risks associated with the participation in the Event. I confirm that I have sufficient insurance coverage to cover the consequences, should a risk associated with the Event materialize.

My attendance and participation is absolutely and entirely at my own risk without any exception, and I agree that neither the European Scout Foundation, Geneva, nor any of the members of the board of this Foundation, has any responsibility for my participation in the Event. I forever waive, release and discharge the Foundation and its board members from any and all claims, liabilities or expenses, whether such claim, liability or expense is in contract, statute, tort or otherwise, relating in any way to my participation in the Event. This waiver and release may not be modified orally. This waiver and release shall be governed by, and constituted in accordance with, the substantive laws of Switzerland.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_