

THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR INTERCULTURAL THEOLOGY AND INTERRELIGIOUS STUDIES

March 2019

Dear participant,

It is my pleasure to welcome you next month to the 2019 ESITIS Conference and to Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina. Below you find some information for planning your visit. Feel free to contact me with any concerns or questions.

Please make sure to register using the attached form and by paying the conference fee (locals are exempt from this fee) **by 1 April**. An opening reception on 24 April and lunches on 25 and 26 April plus coffee/tea breaks for the whole conference are included in your conference fee. Please let me know as soon as possible if you have any dietary needs.

On your conference registration form you were asked to mark your interest in our optional excursion to Mostar on 28 April. Some information is included below, and the cost of the tour will follow. Please let me know by 1 April if you did not express interest but would like to join. We will also offer two afternoon city tours of Sarajevo on 26 April, which will cost approximately 10 KM per person (5 euros). Please let me know asap if you wish to join a city tour and specify which one you prefer (see info below).

If you are presenting a paper at the conference, the convener of your session (see call for papers) will be in contact about details. Projectors and attached computers with internet will be available. If you are interested to publish your paper, ESITIS' journal, *Interreligious Studies and Intercultural Theology*, please contact the editors, Nelly van Doorn-Harder and Paul Hedges with your abstract (see <https://journals.equinoxpub.com/isit>).

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely yours,

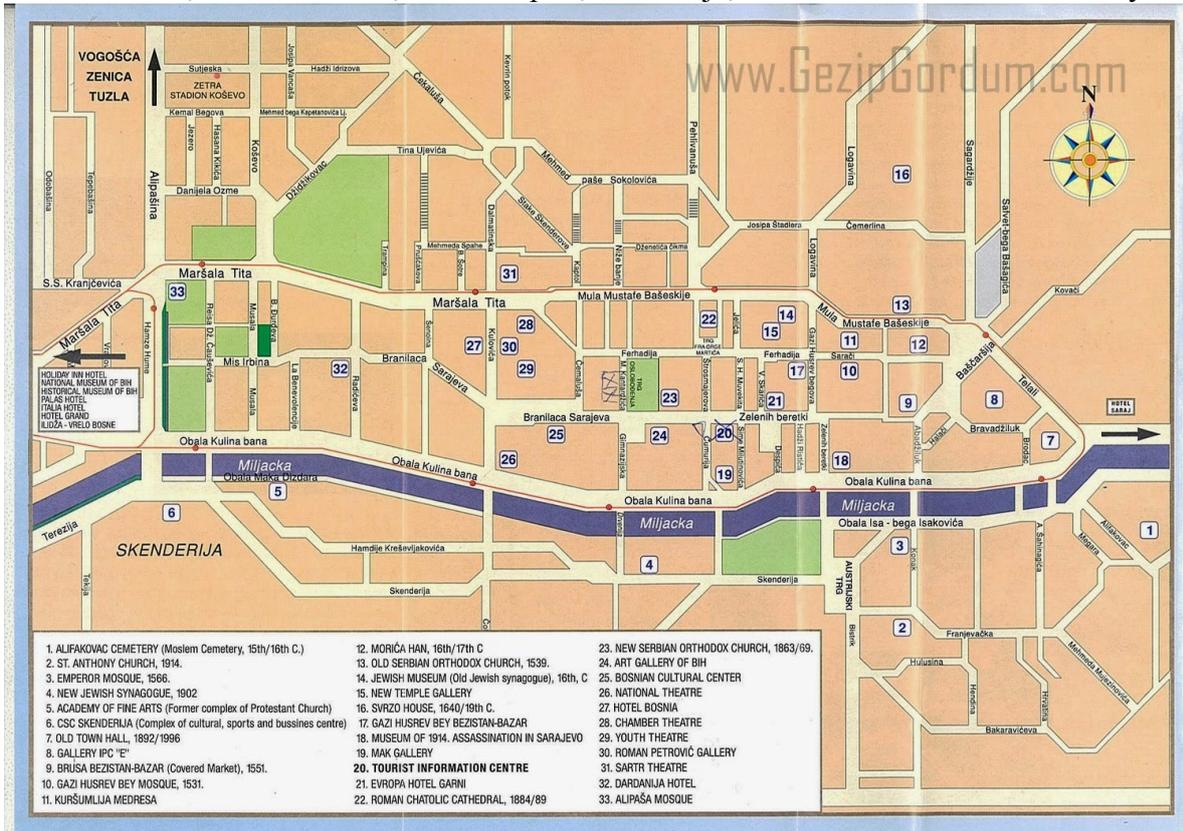


Julianne Funk
Conference coordinator

ESITISconf@gmail.com
+387 62 471 359 (during conference)
<http://www.esitis.org/conference-2019/>

Information

Sarajevo is the capital city of Bosnia & Herzegovina with around 400 thousand inhabitants. It lies along a valley with the airport at the west end ('Ilidža') and the center (map below) is at the east end, with the oldest, Ottoman part, Baščaršija, at the furthest end of the valley.



Conference venues

The conference will take place at the faculties of Islamic Sciences (on 24 April) and Catholic Theology (25-27 April) of the University of Sarajevo. These are located about 5 minutes walking distance from each other in the city center.



The Islamic Faculty (Ćemerlina 54) is slightly up the hill (north) from the main square in Baščaršija. On the above map, it is located at the intersection of Ćemerlina and Sagardžije streets.

The Catholic faculty (Josipa Štadlera 5) is a little bit up the hill (north) from the Roman Catholic Cathedral (number 22 on the map).



Accommodation

Sarajevo is full of hotels, pensions, hostels, as well as apartments and rooms to rent. Our reservations at the Hotel Hayat and Astra Garni have both expired, but you can find other excellent accommodation online (e.g. air bnb).

Arriving in Sarajevo

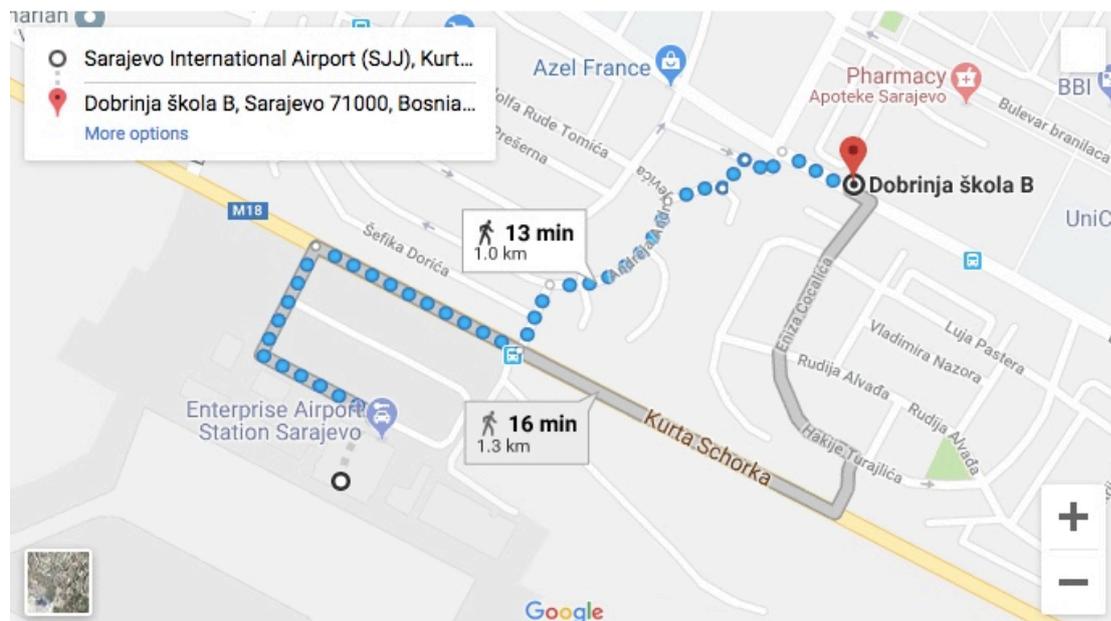
By plane: From the airport into to the center of town, you can take a taxi, the shuttle bus, or a normal bus or trolleybus.

- Sarajevo Taxis are available at the city's small airport and will cost you apx 15-20 euros (30-40 KM). Alternatively, you can call a taxi (see below), which will cost you half the price (15 KM).



- Shuttle buses run sporadically and pick up from the right end of the sidewalk where you exit the building. A one-way ticket costs 5 KM; return costs 8 KM. The timetable can be found on their brochure (see left).

- There is no public transport from the airport, unfortunately, but you can walk about a kilometer into Dobrinja to catch trolleybus 103 (get off at Trg Austrije) or bus 31E(xpress, get off at Latinska Čuprija or thereafter), for a trip of 30-40 min into town. A ticket costs 1.80 KM from the driver or 1.60 KM from some kiosks. See map below for walking instructions.



By bus or train (train not recommended): From the train or bus station, you can take a taxi (costing around 8 KM) or the tram to the center (direction Bašćaršija). A tram ticket costs 1.80 KM from the driver or 1.60 KM from some kiosks.

Money

Bosnian convertible marks (KM) are the currency of the country. Two KMs is equal to a Euro (hearkening back to the wartime currency of Deutschmarks). You can change money or take cash out of an ATM at the airport or in town.

Transportation in Sarajevo

- Public transportation is made up of trams, buses and trolleybuses. Almost all trams (number 3) travel the length of the valley and make a loop in the center: traveling east towards Bašaršija along the river Miljačka (southern loop) and west towards Ilidža/the airport on the northern loop. You can buy tickets from the driver or from some kiosks (1.80 or 1.60 per ride, respectively, or you can buy a 5 ride card [*pet vozi karta*] from some kiosks).

- Taxis are generally a good way to get around and are not expensive; a journey in the center of town will usually cost you less than 5 euros.

Crveni (red) Taxi: +387 33 760-600

Samir i Emir: +387 33 15 16

Žuti (yellow) Taxi: +387 33 660-666

Lav Taxi (recommended for airport and East Sarajevo): +387 57 342 000

Simply be aware that taxi drivers may try to cheat you. Check that the taxi has a meter and the driver uses it. You can ask the price for your route before you take the cab.

Optional, simultaneous city tours, 15:00-18:00, 26 April (cost apx 10 KM)

1. Exploring Sarajevo's Vraca Memorial Park and the Old Jewish Cemetery

Guide: **Dr. Nicolas Moll**, historian and a trainer in the fields of intercultural cooperation, dealing with the past and civil society development

Guided memory walk through two emblematic sites of the history of Sarajevo, situated on one of the hills along the town, and which are both linked to different historical periods of Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the Ottoman times, the Austrian-Hungarian period, the Second World War, the socialist Yugoslavia, the 1992-1995-siege, and post-war Bosnia and Herzegovina. Participants will go by taxi to the locations in/around Grbavica.

2. Sarajevo city center inter-religious walk

Guide: **Amra Pandžo**, prominent local faith-based peacebuilder

The mystery of Sarajevo, the city between East and West, can be visible through various sacred spaces lying close to each other. Their energy is almost overlapping. If you visit Careva Mosque, built in 1462, you can sense an oriental silence surrounding ancient Muslim graves. If you walk only five meters further, you will see Saint Anthony's Franciscan Monastery where you can light a candle for good luck, like many Sarajevo residents. The first decades of Christianity left behind the beautiful Old Orthodox Church a few meters from Sarajevo's oldest synagogue, which was built when the Ottoman Empire welcomed Sephardic Jews expelled during the Spanish Inquisition.

Optional visit to the Serbian Orthodox Holy Saturday Easter service, 27 April (service begins at 17:00, details to follow)

Optional excursion to Mostar, 28 April (cost TBA)



We will leave Sarajevo by bus at 7:30 and return at 21:00. The day will include guided tours at Blagaj Tekke, the Franciscan church, and the Partisan Memorial. Free time will be given to explore the old town with its famous bridge. Mostar is located in Herzegovina, the southwestern part of the country, and

has a Mediterranean climate, so be prepared for warm, sunny weather.

Guide: **Marko Barišić** comes from Mostar and is a PhD candidate in social anthropology at the University of Kent, Canterbury, UK. In his research, he focuses on the contemporary religiously-mixed sacred landscapes central Bosnia, with a particular emphasis on the church of St. Ivo in Podmilacje, Jajce.

If you would like to donate to a worthy local initiative, Marko is one of a team establishing **The Alternative Library** in Mostar. The Alternative Library is a grassroots project to provide Mostar's youth with interdisciplinary literature on topics related to change and resistance, counteracting the removal of such books from the local library system under the current regime. The team welcomes your donations of books (in English, German and Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian) and looks forward to soon establishing the physical library. <https://www.facebook.com/MostarAlternative/>