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### Keep these things in mind when you depart from Belgrade bus station

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Categories: Serbia

Belgrade, the Serbian capital city is one of the cheapest destinations in Europe. It offers a variety of exciting things to do.

The Belgrade bus station lies in the Southwest, 1.5 km away from the old town. It's open 24/7 and active even at night. The nearest tram stop is 'Економски факултет' and lines #7, #9, #11, 12 stop here.

But the bus station is not a typical European type where you reach the bus station and board the bus. We had to make our way in and adding to our surprise, our bus already left before it's scheduled departure.

#### Belgrade bus station

Here are the things to keep in mind when you depart from the Belgrade bus station

- 1. A fee to enter the platform
- 2. Sorry no Euros, please
- 3. Pay your driver to store luggage on the bus
- 4. Washroom & currency exchange center
- 5. Luggage storage counter
- 6. Bus operators office on the first floor

#### 1. A fee to enter the platform

You need to pay a fee to enter Belgrade bus station's platforms. Strange, isn't it? I have never experienced this in Europe.





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The Security collects your platform ticket, validates it, and then allows you to enter the platform. Now imagine a big line waiting to enter. So make sure not to reach the bus station last minute. I guarantee that you will miss the bus.

#### Serbian currency

The official currency of Serbia is Serbian dinar (RSD)

- 1 Euro ~ 117 RSD
- 1 US Dollar ~ 105 RSD

#### 2. Sorry no Euros, please

Now that you have to buy a platform ticket to enter, the hunt to search the counter begins. Belgrade bus station has several counters. Don't panic, directly head to counter #12. They only sell platform tickets. The fee is 190 RSD (only RSD). It took a while to find an exchange center.



Buy the platform ticket at this counter

If you think that my vacation in Belgrade is over, no more RSD needed, you are totally wrong. Have a few hundred RSD if you leave from Belgrade bus station.

#### 3. Pay your driver to store luggage on the bus

A common scenario in the Balkan region; to pay the driver to store luggage. No matter how you purchased the ticket; online or at the bus station counter or through a travel agent, you must pay the driver to store the check-in luggage.



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In return, the driver gives a tag to wrap and store the luggage at the bus's lower compartment. You can pay both in Euro (1 €) or Serbia dinar (120 RSD).

#### 4. Washroom & currency exchange center

There is a washroom, few blocks away from the ticket counters. It cost 50 RSD



There are two exchange centers, one close to the ticket counters and one at the entrance. I am not sure about the names and their timings but the one near entrance closes early (~6 pm).

#### *5. Luggage storage counter*

Next to the washroom, there is a luggage storage room. The fee is 180 RSD/bag, valid for a day. You need a photo ID or a passport during the luggage deposit.

**Tip:** If you are on a day trip to Belgrade, use this storage counter, and wander the city baggage free.



Luggage storage area



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There are several bus operators who start, transit, or end at the Belgrade bus station. Neither all are famous not they are available online. So on the first floor, there is an office for every bus operator. You can also book a route directly with them.



List of bus operators

Travel tip: Serbia is one of few European countries where Indian passport holders don't need a visa to enter. Indians can enter or transit through Serbia without a visa for a period of 30 days.

#### My experience

Be prepared, be ready to walk a few hundred meters to reach the terminal if you rely on public transport. The officials at the counters hardly spoke any English. It can be crowded at times. Nevertheless, Belgrade is a wonderful city to explore for tourists.

Time of visit: February 2020

"A bus ride is like being in another world" – JA Redmerski