



1ST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TOURISM AND PEACEBUILDING FUTURE

BELGRADE, SERBIA

4-5 DECEMBER 2026





IRTP
Institute for Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage



CALL FOR PAPERS

1st International Conference on Tourism and Peacebuilding Future
Belgrade, Serbia
Hosted by Academy of Hospitality, Tourism and Wellness
4-5 December 2026

CONFERENCE THEME

Exploring Tourism, Dialogue, Reconciliation and Sustainable Development

WEBSITE LINK

https://akademijahtw.bg.ac.rs/tpf_conference_2026_en.php





ANNOUNCEMENT

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

In a world increasingly shaped by geopolitical tensions, social fragmentation, and cultural misunderstandings, tourism is once again being critically re-examined not only as an economic activity, but as a potential catalyst for peacebuilding, dialogue, and reconciliation. While tourism has long been celebrated as a “passport to peace” and a “vital force for peace,” contemporary realities demand a more nuanced, critical, and evidence-based examination of its true capacity to contribute to peace at local, regional, and global levels.

The International Conference “Tourism and Peacebuilding Future” aims to provide a rigorous academic and professional platform for exploring tourism’s role in peacebuilding, acknowledging both its transformative potential and its inherent limitations. Moving beyond idealized narratives, the conference emphasizes peace-sensitive, ethically grounded, and context-aware tourism approaches, particularly relevant in conflict-affected, post-conflict, politically sensitive, and culturally diverse destinations.

The inaugural conference International Conference “Tourism and Peacebuilding Future 2026”, hosted at the Academy of Hospitality, Tourism and Wellness in Belgrade, Serbia is positioned at the crossroads of tourism studies, peace and conflict studies, international relations, cultural diplomacy, sustainability, and destination governance. Belgrade and the wider Balkan region, marked by a complex history of coexistence, conflict, reconciliation, and regeneration, offer a uniquely meaningful context for launching this scholarly dialogue.

Participants will also have the opportunity to explore Belgrade, one of Southeast Europe’s most dynamic tourism destinations, through networking and cultural activities organised alongside the scientific programme.



CONFERENCE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES



The conference seeks to:



- Critically assess tourism's role in peacebuilding, reconciliation, and conflict transformation
- Examine the ethical, political, and structural conditions under which tourism can contribute to peace
- Bridge theory and practice by connecting academic research with policy, industry, and community perspectives
- Advance interdisciplinary dialogue on peace-sensitive, sustainable and responsible tourism development
- Explore future-oriented frameworks for tourism as a tool for peace, resilience, and social cohesion



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ORGANIZATION

Organised by:

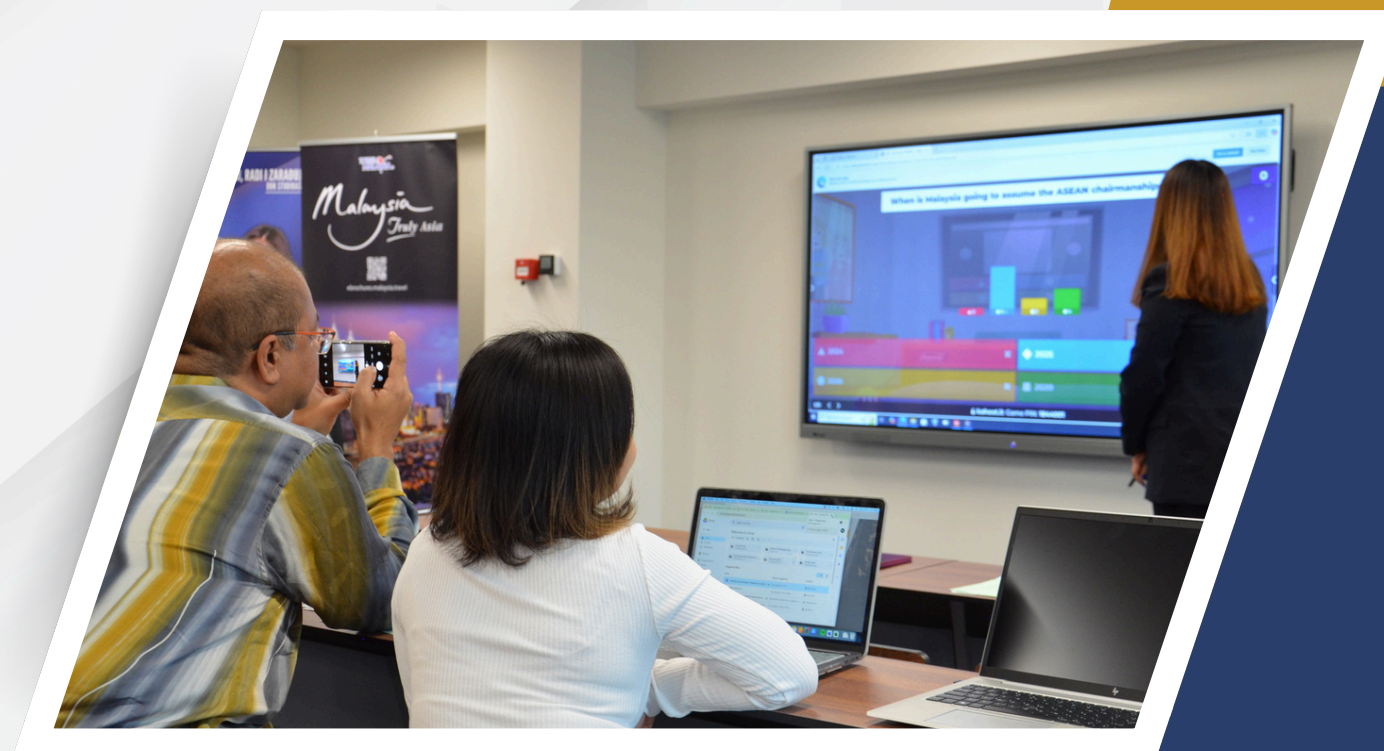
- Tourism Peacebuilding Future
- International Institute for Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage

Hosted by:

- Academy of Hospitality, Tourism and Wellness, Tošin Bunar 179đ, Belgrade, Serbia

ORGANISING COMMITTEE:

- Danijel Pavlović, Academy of Hospitality, Tourism and Wellness, Serbia
- Kevin Griffin, Technological University, Dublin, Ireland
- Razaq Raj, Leeds Beckett University, United Kingdom





KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



NOUR FARRA HADDAD

Lebanese University, Lebanon



JOVAN POPESKU

International Institute for Peace
Through Tourism (IIPT), Serbia Chapter



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LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE:

- *Adrijana Vuković, Academy of Hospitality, Tourism and Wellness, Serbia*
- *Diana Dukanac, Academy of Hospitality, Tourism and Wellness, Serbia*
- *Dragana Jakovljević, Academy of Hospitality, Tourism and Wellness, Serbia*
- *Milan Novović, Academy of Hospitality, Tourism and Wellness, Serbia*
- *Milena Stojić, Academy of Hospitality, Tourism and Wellness, Serbia*
- *Slaviša Vučurević, Academy of Hospitality, Tourism and Wellness, Serbia*
- *Slobodan Adžić, Academy of Hospitality, Tourism and Wellness, Serbia*
- *Slobodan Čerović, Academy of Hospitality, Tourism and Wellness, Serbia*
- *Sonja Zlatanov, Academy of Hospitality, Tourism and Wellness, Serbia*
- *Stanislav Čerović, Academy of Hospitality, Tourism and Wellness, Serbia*
- *Stefan Kovljanin, Academy of Hospitality, Tourism and Wellness, Serbia*
- *Valentina Stanojević, Academy of Hospitality, Tourism and Wellness, Serbia*
- *Vesna Ćurčić, Academy of Hospitality, Tourism and Wellness, Serbia*
- *Zorica Đurić, Academy of Hospitality, Tourism and Wellness, Serbia*

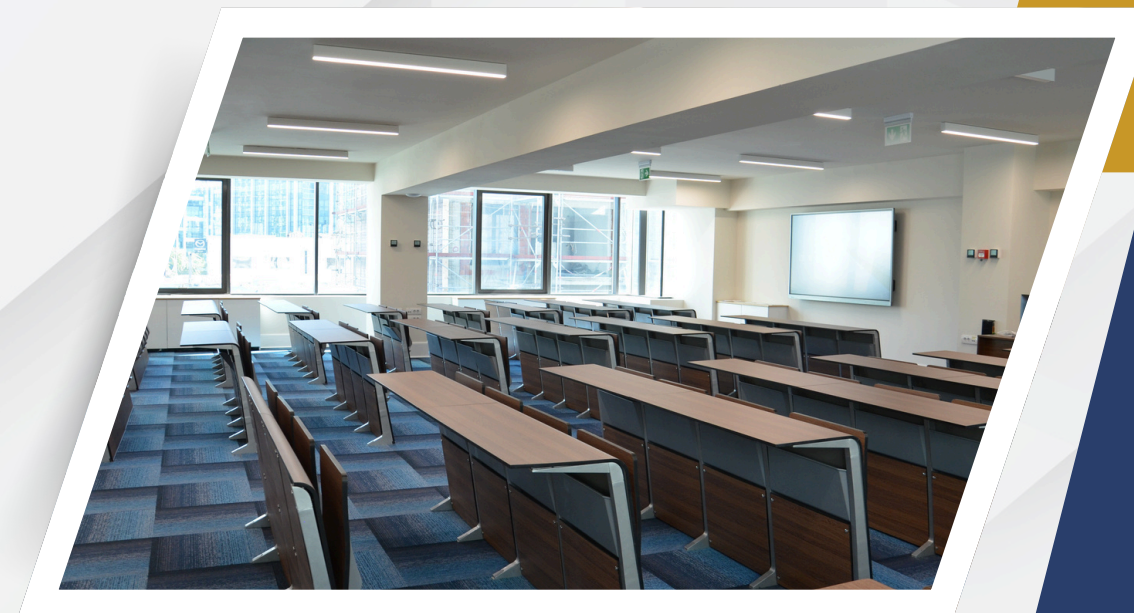




SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE:

- Aleksandra Dragin, Dep. of Geography, Tourism and Hotel Management, Faculty of Sciences, University of Novi Sad
- Anđelina Marić Stanković, State University of Novi Pazar, Serbia
- Bojan Zečević, Faculty of Economics, University of Belgrade. Serbia
- Carlos Fernandes, Polytechnic of Viana do Castelo, Portugal
- Carmen Bizzarri, European University of Rome, Italy
- Daniel H. Olsen, Brigham Young University, USA
- Danijel Pavlović, Academy of Hospitality, Tourism and Wellness, Serbia
- Darius Liutikas, Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences, Lithuania
- Dimitrios Mylonopoulos, University of West Attica, Greece
- Dino Bozonelos, California State University, San Marcos, USA
- Dragica Gatarić, Faculty of Geography, University of Belgrade, Serbia
- Fabio Carbone, University of Northampton, UK
- Jovan Popesku, International Institute for Peace Through Tourism (IIPT), Serbia Chapter
- Kevin Griffin, Technological University, Dublin, Ireland
- Luisa Errichiello, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR), Istituto di Studi su Mediterraneo (ISMed), Italy
- Marija Bratić, University of Nis, Faculty of Sciences, Serbia
- Milan Novović, Academy of Hospitality, Tourism and Wellness, Serbia





SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE:

- *Nour Farra Haddad, Lebanese University, Lebanon*
- *Piera Buonincontri, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR), Istituto di Studi su Mediterraneo (ISMed), Italy*
- *Polyxeni Moira, University of West Attica, Greece*
- *Razaq Raj, Leeds Beckett University, United Kingdom*
- *Roberto Micera, University of Basilicata, Potenza, Italy*
- *Sanja Kovačić, Department of Geography, Tourism and Hotel Management, Faculty of Sciences, University of Novi Sad*
- *Slobodan Čerović, prof. emeritus, Academy of Hospitality, Tourism and Wellness, Serbia*
- *Slobodan Unković, prof. emeritus, Academy of Hospitality, Tourism and Wellness, Serbia*
- *Slobodan Adžić, Academy of Hospitality, Tourism and Wellness, Serbia*
- *Sonja Zlatanov, Academy of Hospitality, Tourism and Wellness, Serbia*
- *Tatjana Pivac, Department of Geography, Tourism and Hotel Management, Faculty of Sciences, University of Novi Sad*
- *Uglješa Stankov, Department of Geography, Tourism and Hotel Management, Faculty of Sciences, University of Novi Sad*
- *Vanja Pavluković, Department of Geography, Tourism and Hotel Management, Faculty of Sciences, University of Novi Sad*
- *Vitor Ambrósio, Higher Institute for Hotel and Tourism Studies, Portugal*
- *Živana Krejić, Academy of Hospitality, Tourism and Wellness, Serbia*
- *Zorica Đurić, Academy of Hospitality, Tourism and Wellness, Serbia*





CONFERENCE THEMES AND TRACKS

2026 CONFERENCE THEME: EXPLORING TOURISM, DIALOGUE, RECONCILIATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Exploring Tourism, Dialogue, Reconciliation and Sustainable Development

This theme invites contributors to reflect on the gap and the possible bridges between normative ideals of tourism as a force for peace and the empirical realities observed across destinations and regions worldwide.

Suggested Conference Tracks and Topics

Submissions may address, but are not limited to, the following thematic areas:

1. Tourism and Peacebuilding: Theoretical and Conceptual Perspectives

- Tourism as a tool for peacebuilding: Reality or utopia?
- Peace-sensitive tourism and ethical frameworks
- Conceptual links between tourism, peace studies, and conflict transformation
- The contact hypothesis revisited: Conditions, limits, and critiques

2. Tourism in Conflict, Post-Conflict, and Divided Societies

- Tourism in post-conflict recovery and reconciliation
- “Phoenix” tourism and social renewal
- Dark tourism versus peace-oriented heritage interpretation
- Managing contested narratives, memory, and trauma



CONFERENCE THEMES AND TRACKS

2026 CONFERENCE THEME: EXPLORING TOURISM, DIALOGUE, RECONCILIATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

3. Political Dimensions of Tourism and Peace

- Tourism diplomacy, soft power, and international relations
- Political stability, insecurity, and destination resilience
- Tourism governance in geopolitically sensitive regions
- Sanctions, travel restrictions, and tourism flow in times of conflict

4. Intercultural Dialogue, Religion, and Peace Through Tourism

- Religious tourism and pilgrimage as spaces of intercultural encounter
- Interfaith tourism and peacebuilding
- Host–guest relations, stereotypes, and prejudice reduction
- Tourism as a platform for intercultural education and empathy

5. Sustainable and Community-Based Tourism for Peace

- Sustainable tourism as a structural condition for peace
- Community engagement and local agency in peacebuilding tourism
- Tourism, SDGs, and peace promotion
- Inclusive tourism development and social justice
- Tourism and human rights
- Equity, inclusion, and justice in tourism development



CONFERENCE THEMES AND TRACKS

2026 CONFERENCE THEME: EXPLORING TOURISM, DIALOGUE, RECONCILIATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

6. Education, Youth, and Mobility for Peace

- Educational tourism and global citizenship
- Erasmus+, exchange programs, and peacebuilding
- Youth mobility and intercultural learning
- Tourism education and peace competence

7. Case Studies, Best Practices, and Innovative Models

- Empirical case studies from diverse regions
- Comparative international perspectives
- Innovative governance and partnership models
- Measuring tourism's impact on peace and social cohesion
- Measurement frameworks and indicators of tourism impact on peace

8. Futures, Innovation, and Digital Dimensions of Tourism and Peace

- Scenario planning and foresight in peace tourism
- Innovation in conflict-sensitive tourism models
- Role of digital media, AI, and platforms in shaping narratives of peace and conflict
- Smart governance and data-driven peace tourism





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IMPORTANT DATES

Abstract submission deadline

10 October 2026

Notification of acceptance

15 October 2026

Conference registration deadline

15 November 2026

Conference date

4-5 December 2026

Full paper submission* (optional)

15 March 2027

*(submission for publication in International Journal of Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage Special issue)





WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

The conference welcomes academics, researchers, doctoral candidates, postdoctoral scholars, policymakers, destination managers, tourism practitioners, peacebuilding professionals, NGOs, tourism stakeholders, representatives of international organisations, and students interested in the intersection of tourism, peacebuilding, sustainability, and intercultural dialogue. We particularly encourage interdisciplinary and international participation. The list above should not be considered restrictive. The conference welcomes participation from all individuals and organizations whose work contributes to advancing knowledge and practice at the intersection of tourism and peacebuilding.

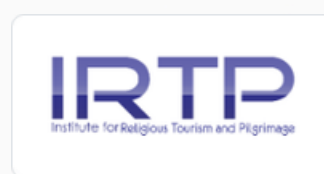
The conference also offers valuable networking opportunities through social and cultural events designed to facilitate international academic and professional collaboration.

TYPES OF CONTRIBUTIONS

The conference welcomes:

- Full research papers
- Conceptual and theoretical papers
- Empirical studies (qualitative, quantitative, mixed methods)
- Policy and practice-oriented contributions
- Case studies and best practice examples

Interdisciplinary and cross-sector perspectives are especially encouraged.



CONFERENCE AWARDS

To recognise outstanding scholarly contributions, the conference will present the following awards:

- Best Conference Paper Award
- Best PhD Paper Award

Awards will be based on the quality, originality, methodological rigour, and contribution of the paper to the field of tourism and peacebuilding. Award recipients will be announced during the Conference Closing Session.

PRESENTATION FORMAT

The conference will be held in person at the Academy of Hospitality, Tourism and Wellness, Belgrade, Serbia. Accepted contributions will be presented in thematic sessions. Each presentation will be allocated up to 12 minutes, followed by 3 minutes of discussion and questions.

Further details regarding the conference programme and presentation schedule will be communicated to registered participants prior to the conference.



SUBMISSION PROCESS

Submit your paper via email: tpfconference@akademijahtw.bg.ac.rs

Abstracts will be published in TPF Conference Book of Abstracts.

Papers presented at the conference will be considered for publication in a Special Issue of the International Journal of Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage (Scopus Q1, Open Access, no publication fees), subject to the journal's editorial standards and double-blind peer review process. Authors of selected papers will be invited to submit extended versions of their contributions for consideration in the Special Issue.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Abstract length: up to 300 words

Language: English (British spelling preferred)

Each submission should include:

- Title of the paper
- Author name(s) and institutional affiliation(s)
- Contact email
- 4–5 keywords
- Abstract (max. 300 words)
- 2–3 key references (optional but recommended)



CONFERENCE FEES

Regular Registration Fee: €250

Accompanying Partner Fee: €175

The registration fee includes:

- Welcome Coffee and Reception
- Participation in all conference sessions
- Conference materials
- Coffee breaks and refreshments
- Gala Dinner
- Certificate of Participation

The accompanying partner fee includes:

- Welcome reception
- Coffee breaks and refreshments
- Gala Dinner

Payment details and registration procedures will be provided to accepted participants upon completion of the registration process.



PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

4 DECEMBER 2026

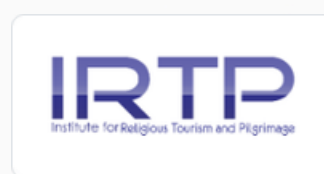
- Registration
- Welcome Coffee and Reception
- Opening Ceremony
- Keynote Presentations
- Parallel Scientific Sessions
- Gala Dinner (included in the conference registration fee)

5 DECEMBER 2026

- Scientific Sessions (if required based on the number of accepted submissions)
- Conference Closing Session
- Guided Sightseeing Tour of Belgrade*
- Optional Conference Dinner and Networking Evening*

OPTIONAL NETWORKING EVENT

An optional Dinner, Networking Evening and Guided Sightseeing Tour of Belgrade will be organised on 5 December 2026. Participation is voluntary, subject to a sufficient number of participants, and the cost is not included in the conference registration fee. Further information will be provided to registered participants.



CONFERENCE LOCATION

The conference will be held in Belgrade, Serbia, at the Academy of Hospitality, Tourism and Wellness - Tošin Bunar 179d street.

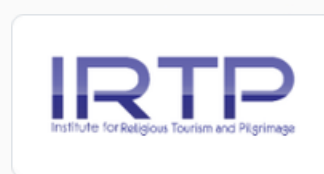
Belgrade and the wider Balkan region represent a historically complex and symbolically rich context for discussions on tourism, conflict, reconciliation, and peacebuilding, and the crossroads of cultures.

ACADEMY OF HOSPITALITY, TOURISM AND WELLNESS

The Academy of Hospitality, Tourism and Wellness is a specialised higher education institution located in Belgrade, Serbia, dedicated to educating future professionals and leaders in hospitality, tourism, wellness, destination management, and related service industries. Through its study programmes, industry partnerships with “A” Hotels, applied research activities, and international cooperation initiatives, the Academy contributes to the advancement of tourism knowledge and professional practice in Serbia and the wider region.

The Academy maintains strong links with tourism and hospitality stakeholders, including hotels, tourism organisations, tourism businesses, and professional associations, providing students and researchers with opportunities to engage directly with contemporary industry challenges and innovations. As host of the inaugural International Conference on Tourism and Peacebuilding Future, the Academy aims to foster international academic dialogue and interdisciplinary collaboration on tourism, peacebuilding, sustainability, and intercultural understanding.

Located in New Belgrade, one of the city’s most modern and accessible districts, the Academy offers convenient access to Belgrade Nikola Tesla Airport, the city centre, business districts, cultural attractions, and major transportation hubs.



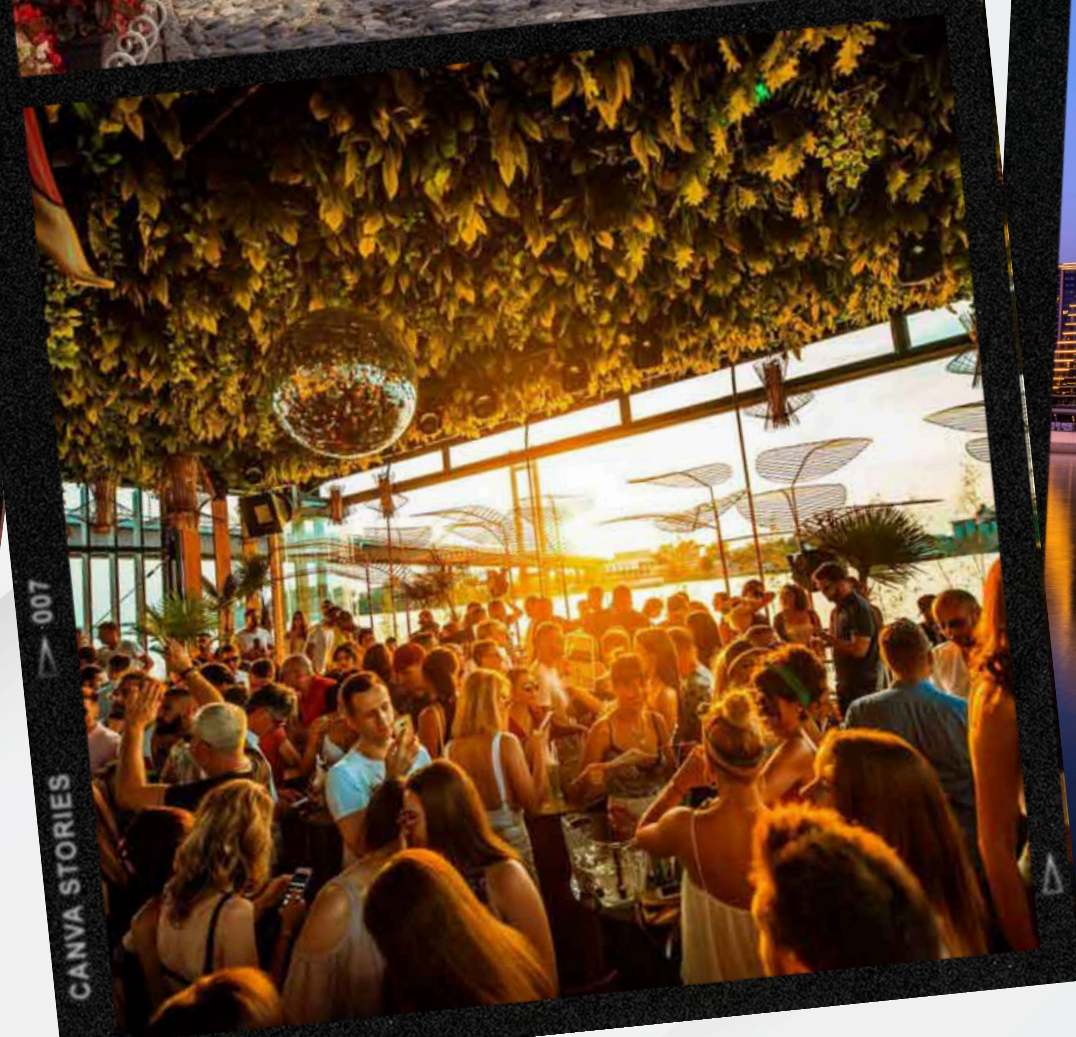
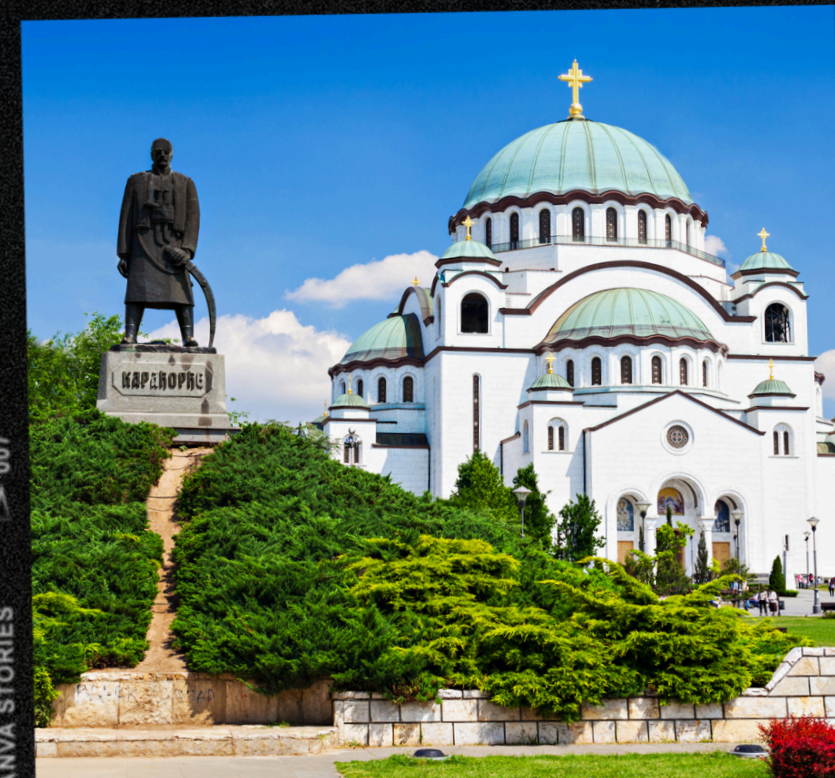
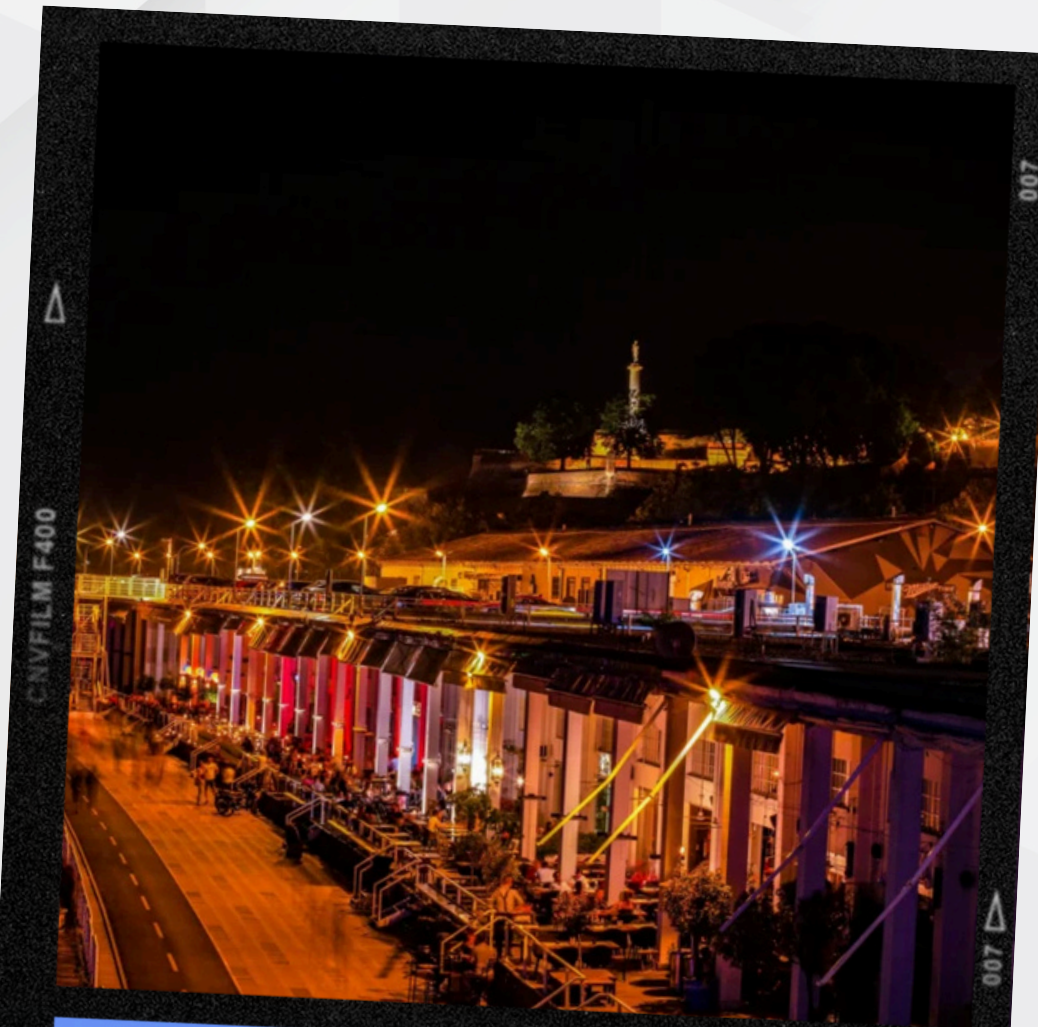
ABOUT BELGRADE

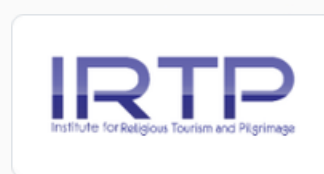
Belgrade, the capital of the Republic of Serbia, is one of Europe's oldest continuously inhabited cities and a unique meeting point of cultures, religions, and civilizations. Situated at the confluence of the Danube and Sava rivers, the city has historically served as a bridge between East and West, reflecting centuries of cultural exchange, coexistence, conflict, and renewal.

Today, Belgrade is recognized as one of Europe's most dynamic urban destinations, combining rich historical heritage with a vibrant contemporary cultural scene. Visitors can explore landmarks such as the Belgrade Fortress and Kalemegdan Park, St. Sava Temple, Skadarlija Bohemian Quarter, the Museum of Yugoslavia, and numerous galleries, museums, and cultural institutions.

The city is renowned for its hospitality, lively café culture, diverse gastronomy, and vibrant events calendar. Belgrade's experience of historical transformation, post-conflict recovery, regional cooperation, and urban regeneration makes it a particularly meaningful venue for scholarly discussions on tourism, reconciliation, dialogue, resilience, and peacebuilding.

ABOUT BELGRADE





TRAVEL INFORMATION

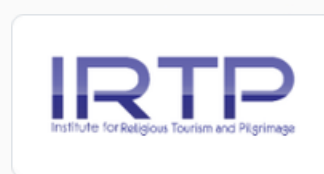
How to Get to Belgrade:

By Air:

Belgrade Nikola Tesla Airport (BEG) is Serbia's main international airport and serves numerous direct and connecting flights from major European and international destinations.

Approximate flight times to Belgrade:

- Vienna – 1 hour
- Budapest – 1 hour
- Rome – 1 hour 30 min
- Munich – 1 hour 20 min
- Zurich – 1 hour 40 min
- Paris – 2 hours 20 min
- London – 2 hours 45 min
- Istanbul – 1 hour 40 min
- Dubai – 5 hours
- New York – 10 hours



TRAVEL INFORMATION

From the Airport to the Conference Venue:

By Taxi

The Academy of Hospitality, Tourism and Wellness is located approximately 10–15 minutes by taxi from Belgrade Nikola Tesla Airport, depending on traffic conditions.

By Public Transport

Several public bus lines connect the airport with New Belgrade and the city centre. Detailed information and recommended routes will be provided closer to the conference date.

By Car

The Academy is easily accessible from all major city highways and is located in New Belgrade, close to the E-75 motorway and the city's main transport corridors.

Local Transportation

Belgrade offers an extensive public transportation network consisting of buses, trams, and trolleybuses. Taxi services and ride-hailing applications are widely available throughout the city.

Accommodation options:

Information on recommended hotels and accommodation options in different price categories will be provided



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WHY ATTEND?

- Engage with leading international scholars working in tourism, peacebuilding and reconciliation
- Present your research in an interdisciplinary international environment
- Build new academic and professional networks



- Explore publication opportunities in the International Journal of Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage (Scopus Q1)
- Experience Belgrade and the Western Balkans as a unique setting for discussing tourism, reconciliation, resilience and peacebuilding





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— TOURISM AND
PEACEBUILDING
— FUTURE —



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IN BELGRADE

