

## Bosnia and Herzegovina

### 1-Short overview of the country

Bosnia and Herzegovina is that diamond-shaped country, bordered to the west and north by Croatia, to the east by Serbia and to the south-east by Montenegro. It is landlocked, but has a very narrow contact with the Adriatic Sea, in Neum, to the south of Mostar. You'll see it at the foot of Radež (030).

It was created in 1992. The independence from Yugoslavia led to the Bosnian War. The Dayton Agreement put an end to it in 1995. It is a federal country with three entities: the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Croats and Bosniacs), the Republika Srpska and the Brčko District, largest port of the country and located in the north-east.

It has an area of 51,000 km<sup>2</sup>, that is more or less the same than Croatia (56,000), more than Slovenia (20,000) and less than Serbia (88,000). Compare with UK (242,000), the Netherlands (41,000), Metropolitan France (550,000), Spain (505,000) or Italia (300,000).



The Dinaric Alps cross Bosnia. That gives us very high summits: Bjelašnica (2053m, #019 in the list), Paljenik-Vlašić (1925m, #036) Rosinj-Vranica (1906m, #039), the BIG Jahorina (1563m, #082) or Zelengora (1737m, #092). Some are unpaved, but they are as difficult as the Parpaillon or the Cortalets in France. For the record, the Bosnian highest point is Maglić (2386m), on the Bosnian-Montenegrin border.



## 2-Tourism

Two UNESCO sites have been selected in the list. The Old Bridge in Mostar, built in the XVIth century, destroyed in 1993, and rebuilt ten years later, is the start point of Gornje Opine (BIG and 026). In Višegrad, the Mehmed Paša Sokolović Bridge (also built in the XVIth century), spans the River Drina. We see it at the foot of Sjemeć (086). Počitelj and its historic urban site (028) are on the UNESCO Tentative List.



Mostar



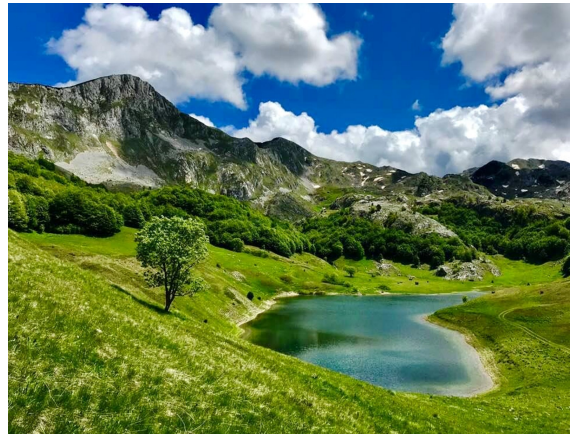
Višegrad



Bosnia has three National Parks (Una, Kozara and Sutjeska). You'll appreciate the River Una (in the north-west) at the foot of Malo Očijevo (007) and Prkosi (005), and you'll overlook it at the top of Lohovo (004). Kozara is located in the north, nothing new for the BIG members, since Mrakovica (053) and its impressive 33m high monument are already in the Superlist. Sutjeska is located in the south-east. Three places to visit it: Zelengora (092), Drače (090) and Bakić (091).



The River Una, in Martin Brod



Sutjeska NP

The Drina Valley is not (yet) a national park, but it really worth being seen. It is formed by the confluence of the Tara and the Piva Rivers, at the border between Bosnia and Montenegro. Šćepan Polje (#007 in the Montenegrin list) starts there. Afterwards, the Drina crosses the Sutjeska NP and becomes the 200km long border between Bosnia and Serbia. You cant' miss it, since it's the backbone of the eastern part of the Republika Srpska (Zone 4). You'll appreciate it above the Lake Perućac (077-Pribojevići and 078-Gladovići), or in the Tara NP (in Serbia). The shortcut in Žlijebac (079) is also interesting. In the lower part of the Drina, Zvornik is overlooked by a medieval fortress (073).



Confluence of the Drina and Lim Rivers



The Lake Perućac

The list also visits two Natural Parks (Blidinje, thanks to 018-Sovička vrata and Hutovo blato at the foot of 029-Cerovica), and the Adventure Park Peć Mlini (024).

« Blue tourism »:

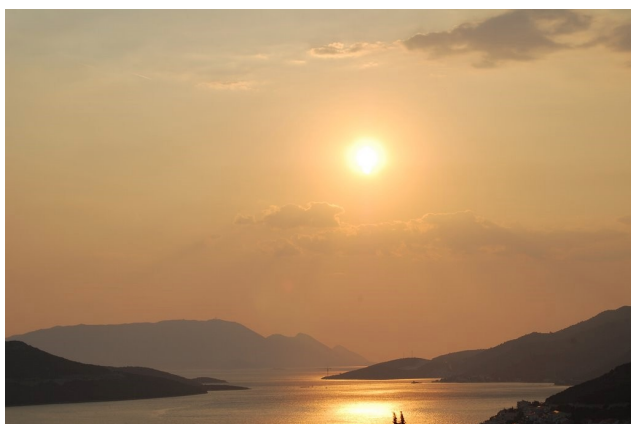
Privala (015) is located near Buško blato, one of the largest artificial lakes in Europe and an important bird reserve.

Zvirnjača (016) starts on Ramsko jezero, another reservoir, near Šćit, its small peninsula and its Franciscan monastery.

Radež (030) is the only Bosnian climb in the list at the Adriatic seashore.

Dabrac (063) is a very nice viewpoint overlooking the River Vrbas.

Donja Strmica (087) is another viewpoint. It towers above the River Lim, before the confluence with the Drina. The road appears on the website « DangerousRoads », under the name of « Road R467 ».



Impression, Sunrise (in Neum)



Dabrac above the River Vrbas

In Bosnia, ski = Sarajevo of course, since the 1984 Olympics. Therefore Jahorina (BIG and #082) is the best place to be. In the list you'll find two other ski resorts: Oštrelj (008) and Ponijeri (043).

The list includes four castles. On a rocky outcrop, Srebrenik (032) is the most impressive. From Zvornik, already mentioned (073), you'll have a lovely view of the Drina and from Maglaj (040) of the River Bosna. Jajce (035) is a typical postcard: the climb starts near waterfalls on the River Pliva, follows a small cobbled street, before reaching the ramparts. Three places of interest in one climb. The four sites are Bosnian National Monuments.

Strange for a Balkan list: only one monastery, in Ozren (069).



Srebrenik



Jajce, the waterfalls and the fortress



A few sites of memory, that celebrate people, who fought against fascism: Mrakovica (053), Banj Brdo (057), near Banja Luka, Grmeč (006) and Smetovi (042). One of the most impressive monument lies in the Sutjeska NP, in Tjentište. The list turns around it, but nothing more. If you have the opportunity, it is on the road M20, that crosses the ex-BIG Čemerno.



Banj Brdo



Smetovi

### 3-Sport – difficulty

7 climbs are more difficult than the BIG Jahorina (954 europoints). The Top3 is unpaved: Bjelašnica is the best (1416pts), then Rosinj (039, 1189 pts) and Paljenik (036, 1069pts). They allow us to enter in the heart of the Dinaric Alps. With its 1400pts, Bjelašnica stands up to comparison with the classic unpaved climbs: Cortalets (1600pts), Parpaillon-W (1530pts) and Sommeiller (1460m).

Top4 of the paved climbs: Humilišani (022, 1072pts), Leotar (099, 1059pts), Mazlina (049, 1011pts) and Visočica (021, 996pts). Compared with Alp d'Huez (1068pts).



Bjelašnica

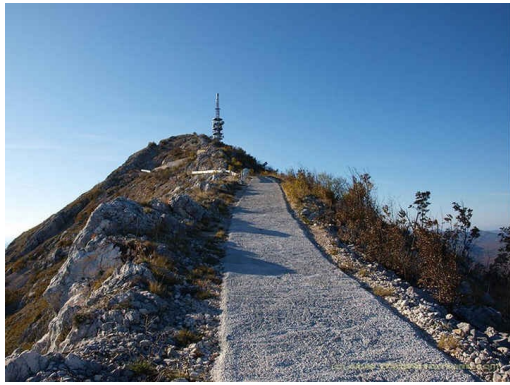


Paljenik

The best Bosnian bombs:

- 099- Leotar 35
- 039- Rosinj 34,7
- 034- Ilinčica, the « Wall of Tuzla » 32,4
- 019- Bjelašnica (Igman road incl.) 30
- 054- Gradina 29,6
- 073- Zvornik Fortress 29,5
- 042- Špomenik Smetovi (Memorial) 28,3
- 047- Čavljak 28,1

Other figures to compare: Nebelhorn 63, Oscheniksee 49, Angliru 45, Mortirolo-N 34, Puy-de-Dôme 30, Mur de Huy 26, Koppenberg 25.



Top of Leotar (15%)



Akifa Seremeta Street, in Ilinčica (17-18%)

The best elevation gains:

- 019- Bjelašnica 1507m
- 036- Paljenik 1381m
- 039- Rosinj (Vranica) 1228m
- 021- Visočica 1254m
- 022- Humilišani 1080m
- 094- Novakuša 1043m
- 018- Sovićka vrata 1038m
- 082- Jahorina 1037m
- 086- Sjemeć 982m
- 043- Ponijeri ski centar 952m

For marathon (wo)men:

- 089- Metaljka 39km
- 019- Bjelašnica (Igman road incl.) 38,7km
- 066- Kruševo Brdo 35km
- 043- Ponijeri ski centar 32,5km
- 082- Jahorina 32km
- 077- Pribojevići 30,7km
- 049- Mazlina 27km
- 094- Novakuša 26,4km

#### 4-Media

##### The B-Hard Ultrarace



Introduction to the Challenge: <http://www.bhardultrarace.com/cp/bhard-about/>

Check points: <https://www.lfgss.com/conversations/327229/>

Pictures and comments: <https://www.picuki.com/profile/bhardultrarace>



From Banja Luka, the B-Hard visits the central and the southern parts of the country, with the same purposes than ours, since it associates cycling in mountain and tourism. The check point 1 (CP1) is located in Mrakovica (BIG and 053) and CP3 at Kupreška Vrata (BIG and 038). Čemerno is on the road, but we erased it from the Superlist, because of the heavy traffic on the M20. The Challenge also crosses Sjemeć (086) after Višegrad, Hranjen (050) and the olympic Jahorina (BIG and 082), near Sarajevo. Then it goes through the mountainous range of Bjelašnica (019), using the asphalt part of the Mount Igman (CP9, 1310m), that we prolonge upto 2050m. The same in Vlačić (036, CP10), where the asphalt ends at 1490m, whereas we go upto 1925m at Paljenik. To close the loop in Banja Luka, the race rides through Jajce (035).



## The « Tour de Serbie »

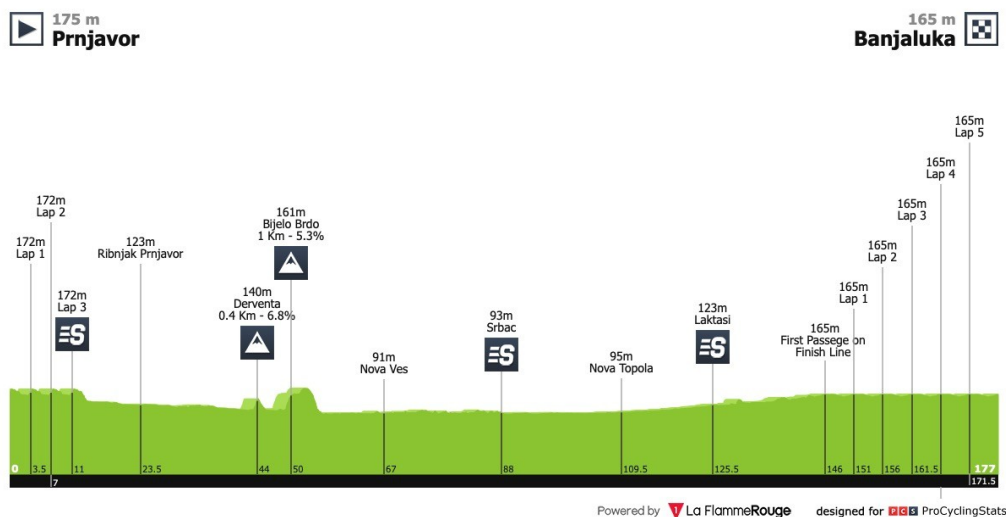
Sometimes the Tour de Serbie crosses the border with the Republika Srpska. In 2012, for instance, the 4<sup>th</sup> stage (Bajina Basta-Pale), after the very touristic Tara National Park in Serbia, climbed Sjemeć (086) and Ravna Romanija (080).



In 2019, the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage (Pale-Priboj) crossed Romanija (080) and Donja Strmica (087), in the Lim Canyon.

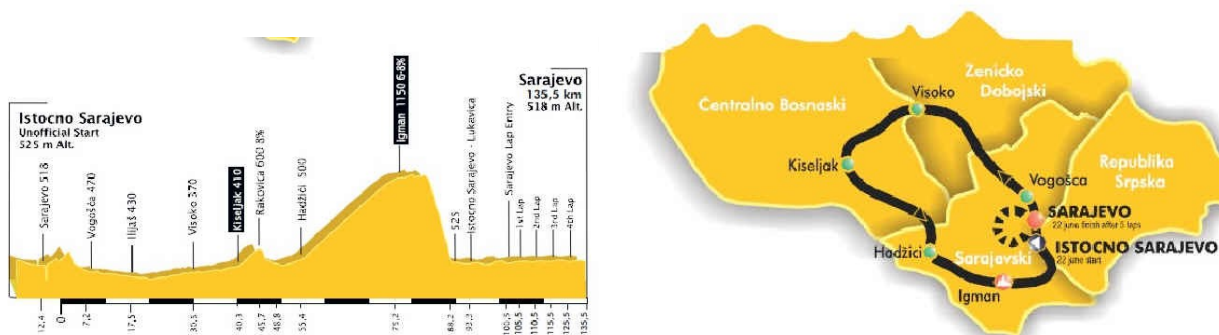
## Belgrade-Banja Luka ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belgrade%E2%80%93Banja\\_Luka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belgrade%E2%80%93Banja_Luka))

Since 2007, the races Belgrade-Banja Luka I and II join both capitals of Serbia and Republika Srpska. The Bosnian climbs are rather easy, as the relief is low in the north-eastern part of the country. The profile of the 4<sup>th</sup> stage in 2019:



Sometimes something more interesting, like the final climb of the 1<sup>st</sup> stage in 2019. It's 10km long before the finish in Vlasenica. In the list, this section belongs to Karanfilyca (076).

In 2014 and 2015, ASO, organizer of the Tour de France, Paris-Roubaix, Liège-Bastogne-Liège,... created a **GP of Sarajevo**, in order to commemorate the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in June 1914, murder that started the First World War.



The highest point of the race was located at Mount Igman, hot spot of the Bosnian War. You'll find it in the list as first part of Bjelašnica (019).

In the **Herzegovina Classic**, there's no KOM selected in our Challenge.

