

Discovering Niš: The Hidden Gem of Serbia

A visual journey
through history, food,
and culture.

English Reading & Culture Practice





Where is Niš?



The 3rd largest city in Serbia, bustling with life.



A historic bridge connecting East and West.



Famous for its warm hospitality and rich heritage.

Theme 01



Echoes of the Past: A City of Emperors





The Imperial Birthplace


Constantine the Great

Niš (known in the past as Naissus) is one of the oldest cities in Europe. It is famous as the birthplace of Constantine the Great, the Roman Emperor who founded Constantinople and legalized Christianity.

Vocabulary

 **Birthplace:** The place where someone is born.

 **Emperor:** The ruler of an empire.

 **Ancient:** Belonging to the very distant past.

Stories Built in Stone



The Niš Fortress

Built by the Ottoman Empire in the 18th century. Today, this massive stone structure is a beautiful park and the cultural heart of the city.



Skull Tower (Ćele Kula)

A unique, haunting monument built in 1809 from the skulls of Serbian revolutionaries. It stands as a powerful symbol of bravery and resilience.

Theme 02



A Taste of the South: Serbian Gastronomy



Welcome to the Kafana

You cannot visit Niš without eating at a **kafana** (a traditional tavern). It is not just about food; it is about taking your time, enjoying live music, enjoying live music, and sharing a **feast** with friends.

Relax your belt! Meals here involve many **courses**, starting with cold appetizers and ending with famous grilled meats.

The Gourmet Glossary



Urnebes Salad -
Chopped cheese mixed
with oil and spicy
peppers.

Burek - A delicious,
flaky pastry filled with
cheese or meat. Niš is
famous for having the
best burek!



Ćevapčići - Grilled rolls
of minced beef and pork,
a true Balkan classic.



Pljeskavica - The
“Serbian hamburger”—a
spiced meat patty grilled
to perfection.

Theme 03



The Pulse of the City: Jazz and Culture

Nišville: A Global Stage

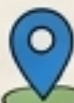
Every August, the historic fortress transforms into a global music hub, blending American jazz with traditional Balkan sounds.


20+ Stages
inside the
fortress.

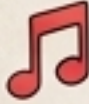
Ranked a "Top 10
European Jazz
Festival" by The
Guardian.

1,000+
Performers
from around
the world.

In Summary...

 Niš is a historic bridge between East and West, shaped by Romans and Ottomans.

 The local food scene is rich, famous for grilled meats, burek, and the traditional kafana.

 The city is alive with culture, proudly hosting the world-famous Nišville Jazz Festival.



To: English Language Learners

From: The City of Niš



Let's Review!

Comprehension Check

You've explored the history, food, and culture of Niš. Now, test your memory and English reading skills on the next few slides.

Part 1: True or False?

1	Niš is the capital city of Serbia.	[TRUE]	[FALSE]
2	Constantine the Great, a famous Roman Emperor, was born in Niš.	[TRUE]	[FALSE]
3	The Nišville Festival only features classical music.	[TRUE]	[FALSE]

Part 2: Short Answer

What is a kafana and what do people do there?

.....

Name one famous historical monument in Niš and describe it briefly.

.....

How did you do?

T/F Answers:

1. False (It is the 3rd largest city).
2. True.
3. False (It is a global Jazz festival).

Short Answers:

1. A traditional tavern for enjoying slow meals, live music, and friends.
2. (Examples: Niš Fortress, an 18th-century park; or Skull Tower, an 1809 monument of resilience).



**Great job! We hope
to see you in Niš!**