



## Serbia – Guča Brass Band Festival

**Serbia 6 days – August 16-21 2010**

Balkan madness and brass bands as you've never known them. Each year 300,000 people descend on the village of Guca, home to just 3,000 inhabitants for the Golden Trumpet competition. It's one of the wildest festivals in Europe. And this year Guca celebrates its 50th edition so the festival has been extended and some very special guests invited. Book early because it's one of the hottest events of the summer.

This year the festival lasts 10 days rather than the usual long weekend and a new trumpet museum is opening in the village. As three days of Guca madness is probably enough, we've picked what we think are the best days to catch the most exciting artists – Boban Markovic, Shantel, Goran Bregovic and the first international brass band competition. All this plus feasting on spit-roasted lamb and pork, alcohol a plenty and dozens of Serbian and Gypsy brass bands playing the local dances - the *kolo* and the *cocek*. Aside from the concerts and competitions, much

of the fun is to be had in the streets - eating, drinking and dancing around the tables till the small hours.

We will enjoy three evenings at the festival and arrange accommodation within the village – which is in heavy demand. And there's a chance to get a taste of Belgrade nightlife. It's an unrivalled opportunity to experience the biggest, brassiest and Balkanist festival in Europe.

All Songlines Music Travellers will receive an information sheet about the local music plus recommended recordings and DVDs.

### To reserve your place

Please read the booking conditions on the website and contact the reservations office on:

**+44 (0)20 8505 2582**  
or email:  
**songlines@thegroupscompany.com**

## Serbia – 6 days

### Itinerary

**Day 1 Mon** We meet our Songlines Travel Leader at our hotel in Belgrade and have an initial briefing on the tour days ahead. Then you can head out into the city to explore – perhaps the impressive Kalemegdan fortress overlooking the confluence of the Danube and Sava rivers. Despite the attractions of Belgrade's nightlife, it's only a Monday night so save yourself for Guca.

**Day 2 Tues** After breakfast we head south on the half-day drive to Guca. On arrival, after checking into our accommodation, we'll take a look around town. The party has been going since Friday night. Tonight is a double bill of Boban & Marko Markovic Orkestar and Shantel with his Bucovina Orchestra. Boban Markovic has won the Golden Trumpet prize more often than any other player and his son Marko is following in his footsteps. German-born Shantel has popularised Balkan music to a whole new audience in Western Europe. Don't expect an early night.

**Day 3 Wed** No hurry to get up. Today we could check out the new trumpet museum, but the main event is this evening's concert from Goran Bregovic, a former Yugoslav rock star, celebrated composer of film scores (*Time of the Gypsies, Underground*) and now leading his Weddings and Funerals Band. He won the Best Artist Prize in this year's *Songlines Music Awards*. With luck, there may be chance for a drink with him after the show.

**Day 4 Thurs** This evening there's a new competition between 14 brass bands from around the world to celebrate the 50th anniversary. The bands have to play by Serbian rules, however, so any visitors will have to be good to win.

**Day 5 Fri** We head back to Belgrade arriving at the end of the afternoon. A last evening together and a taste of Belgrade's weekend nightlife. As you'll have gathered, Serbians love a party and a feeling of celebration pervades the bars, restaurants and nightclubs of the capital.

**Day 6 Sat** Tour ends. After breakfast, time to head for the airport and the flight home, or continue your travels in Serbia.

## Tour costs

We have designed these tours to give you the option of taking up an all-inclusive package which includes your air seats, or the option of making your own way there and then meeting up with the rest of your party at the hotel.

### Serbia – Guča Festival 6-day trip (ex-Belgrade)

**August 16-21 2010**

**Tour Price £495 per person**

Tour includes:

- 5 nights accommodation in Belgrade and Guča on a bed and breakfast basis
- Transfers between Belgrade and Guča
- Entry to the festival
- Two full days at the Festival,
- The services of your Songlines Music Travel leader

**Items not included:** Single room supplement, travel insurance, visas, all meals with the exception of breakfast, gratuities and any items of a personal nature.

**Single supplement:** £195 per person

Flights from London are available in conjunction with this tour from £250. You can book these yourself, or we can book them for you. Transfers from and to the airport in Belgrade are included with flights booked through Songlines Music Travel.

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Guča Festival