

Support Material

Dark shadows of Novi Sad



Co-funded by
the European Union

Tour Title: Dark shadows of Novi Sad

General Information



Primary Themes: Difficult history and memory, Religion and identity, Myths, legends, and narratives, Truth vs interpretation, Civic responsibility in remembering the past



Target Audience: Young people aged 16–30 (mixed groups, no prior knowledge required)



Languages: English, French, German, Serbian, Hungarian, Polish



City / Country: Novi Sad, Serbia



Starting location: Novi Sad, Synagogue



Distance: 7.8 km



Estimated Duration: ~160 minutes

- **Before the Tour:** 15 minutes
- **During the Tour:** ~130 minutes
- **After the Tour:** 15–20 minutes



Material needed (distinguish essential and optional material): Phone, comfortable shoes, flashlight and water (optional)



Accessibility Level (very easy – easy – medium - hard): Medium

Support Material

Learning Objectives

Description

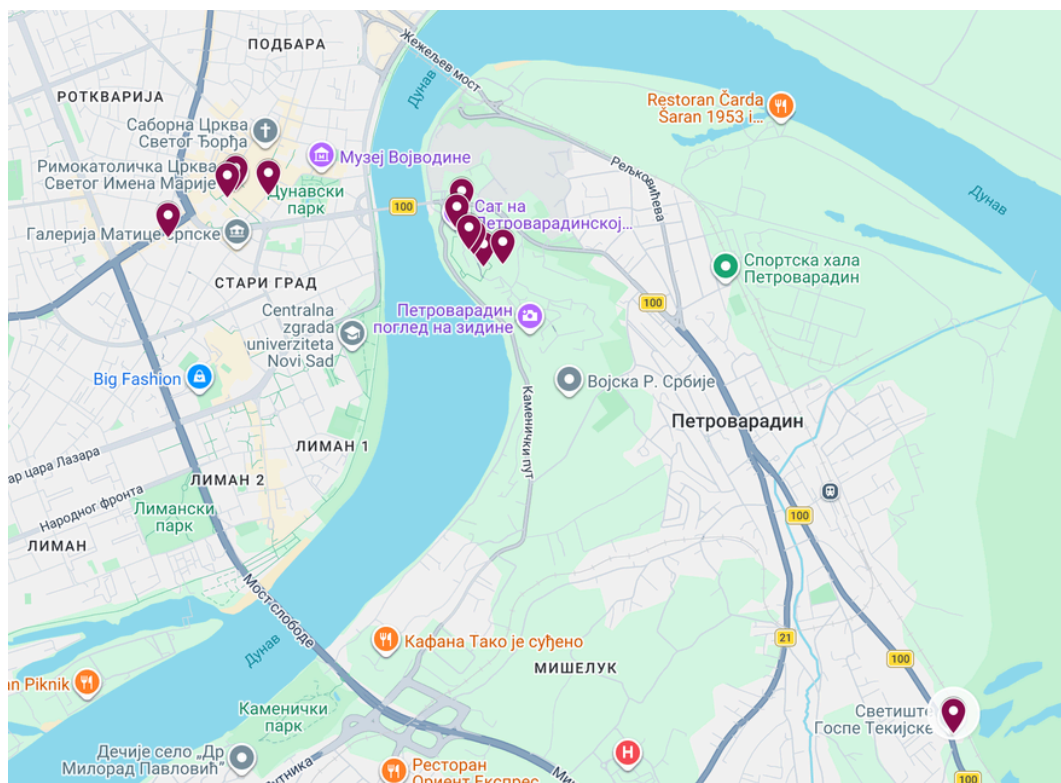
This tour explores the hidden layers of Novi Sad's history through religion, war, myths, symbols, and collective memory. By visiting historical sites and places connected to local legends, participants reflect on how history, storytelling, and public memory shape the city's identity.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the tour, participants will be able to:

- identify how history, myths, and collective memory shape the identity of Novi Sad;
- distinguish between historical facts and local legends;
- reflect on the importance of preserving difficult histories and cultural heritage;
- recognize the role of critical thinking in interpreting historical narratives and public memory.

Practical Information



Accessibility

Stop	Accessibility	Accessible option
1. Novi Sad Synagogue	 Fully accessible, flat pavement	—
2. Catholic Porta	 Fully accessible pedestrian area	—
3. Ilije Ognjanovića Street	 Accessible pedestrian street	—
4. Liberty Square	 Fully accessible, flat square	—
5. Podgrađe – Dark Raven	 Mostly accessible, cobblestones and incline	Accessible route available via Beogradska Street.
6. Fortress Clock	 Moderate – uphill route and cobblestones	Reachable via the main fortress road without stairs.
7. Underground Military Galleries	 Limited accessibility (uneven ground, low lighting, confined spaces)	Participants may remain at the gallery entrance while the guide provides interpretation.
8. Legend of "Peti"	 Mostly accessible, uneven fortress paths	Follow the main fortress paths to avoid difficult terrain.
9. Enigma of the Maltese Cross	 Mostly accessible, cobblestone surfaces	Accessible via the main pedestrian route.
10. Tunnel under Danube	 Mostly accessible, uneven fortress terrain	View accessible areas from the designated public pathway.
11. Church at Tekije	 Mostly accessible, paved sidewalks	Accessible from the main road and pedestrian paths.

Support Material

Safety

The safety of participants is a priority throughout the tour. The route is designed to follow accessible public paths; however, certain locations such as the Petrovaradin Fortress and underground galleries may include uneven terrain, low lighting, and confined spaces.

Participants are required to:

- Stay in groups at all times, especially in less crowded or enclosed areas
- Follow the instructions of the facilitator/guide
- Wear comfortable shoes suitable for walking (~5–6 km distance)
- Bring water and stay hydrated
- Use phone flashlights when necessary in darker areas



Before the Tour

Before the tour begins, participants are introduced to the main theme, objectives, and structure of the experience. A short briefing will be provided and that includes:

- Overview of the tour concept (memory, myths, hidden narratives)
- Expected duration, distance, and route
- Safety instructions and group rules
- Materials needed (phone, water, comfortable shoes, optional flashlight)

Participants are also encouraged to:

- Reflect on their existing knowledge of Novi Sad
- Think about how history is remembered and interpreted
- Be open to discussion, critical thinking, and different perspectives

An engaging opening question or activity can be used to spark curiosity and set the tone for the tour.

Support Material



During the Tour

Stop 1 : Novi Sad Synagogue – Memory of flourishing and suffering

Facilitation Tips

Before reading the text, ask participants what memories historical buildings can preserve. Invite them to observe the architecture and reflect on how the purpose of a place can change over time while still preserving its historical significance.

Cultural Heritage Support Notes

Built in the early 20th century, the Novi Sad Synagogue is one of the city's most important Jewish heritage sites. Today it serves as a cultural venue, demonstrating how historical places can preserve the memory of past communities while continuing to contribute to contemporary cultural life.

Reflection Questions

- How can historical buildings preserve collective memory?
- Should historical sites have new functions or remain unchanged?
- Why is it important to remember communities that are no longer present?

Stop 2 : Catholic Porta – Spiritual Power

Facilitation Tips

Invite participants to observe the space and describe how it is used today. Ask them to consider whether public spaces connected to religion can also reflect broader historical and social changes before introducing the historical background.

Cultural Heritage Support Notes

Catholic Porta has long been an important religious and public space in Novi Sad. Over the centuries, it has witnessed periods of peace, conflict, reconstruction, and community life, illustrating how sacred places often become part of a city's wider historical narrative.

Reflection Questions

- How can one place have different meanings for different generations?
- What role do religious sites play in preserving history?
- How do historical events influence the way we experience public spaces today?

Support Material



During the Tour

Stop 3 : Ilije Ognjanovića Street – First film chase

Facilitation Tips

Before reading the text, ask participants to observe the street and imagine how it looked more than a century ago. Encourage them to think about how ordinary places can become settings for both historical events and fictional stories.

Cultural Heritage Support Notes

Ilije Ognjanovića Street is one of Novi Sad's historic streets, known for its passages and traditional architecture. It also represents an important part of Serbian film history, as scenes from one of the country's earliest fiction films were recorded here, connecting everyday urban life with cultural memory.

Reflection Questions

- How can films influence the way we remember a place?
- Can fiction become part of a city's cultural heritage?
- What stories might today's streets tell in the future?

Stop 4 : Liberty Square – Hidden Conflicts

Facilitation Tips

Invite participants to observe the square and discuss what kinds of public events usually take place there. Then encourage them to consider how the same space can also carry memories of conflict, political change, and social transformation.

Cultural Heritage Support Notes

Liberty Square has long been the political and social center of Novi Sad. Throughout its history, it has witnessed public celebrations, demonstrations, and periods of political change, making it a place where collective memory and civic life continue to intersect.

Reflection Questions

- How can public spaces preserve memories of conflict?
- Why is it important to remember difficult moments in a city's history?
- How do public squares contribute to collective identity?

Support Material



During the Tour

Stop 5 : Podgrađe – Shadows of the Past - Dark “Raven”

Facilitation Tips

Ask participants to observe the narrow streets, courtyards, and atmosphere of Podgrađe. Invite them to consider why certain places become associated with legends and mysterious stories, even when there is little historical evidence.

Cultural Heritage Support Notes

Podgrađe developed as a settlement for craftsmen, traders, and soldiers living below Petrovaradin Fortress. Over time, its unique architecture and historical setting inspired local legends, reflecting how everyday places can become part of a city's folklore and collective imagination.

Reflection Questions

- Why do some places become surrounded by legends?
- How can folklore influence the identity of a community?
- What is the difference between historical evidence and local tradition?

Stop 6 : Fortress Clock – Drunken clock

Facilitation Tips

Before introducing the story, ask participants to observe the clock and guess why its hands appear unusual. After discussing their ideas, explain both its practical purpose and its connection to the fortress's history.

Cultural Heritage Support Notes

The Petrovaradin Clock Tower is one of Novi Sad's best-known landmarks. Its distinctive clock was designed to help boatmen read the time from the Danube, while the tower itself witnessed wars, bombardment, and the reconstruction of the city, becoming a symbol of resilience and continuity.

Reflection Questions

- How can one monument represent both everyday life and historical conflict?
- Why do some landmarks become symbols of a city?
- What can historical monuments teach us about resilience?

Support Material



During the Tour

Stop 7 : Underground military galleries – Ghost hunters

Facilitation Tips

Before entering or discussing the galleries, ask participants how they think underground spaces influence people's emotions. Encourage them to reflect on why abandoned or hidden places often inspire myths, mystery, and imagination.

Cultural Heritage Support Notes

The underground military galleries of Petrovaradin Fortress were built as part of the fortress's defense system. Once used for military strategy and movement, they are now an important heritage site where history, architecture, and local legends come together.

Reflection Questions

- Why do underground spaces often inspire myths and legends?
- How can historical places become symbols of mystery?
- What role does imagination play in interpreting heritage?

Stop 8 : Legend of "Peti" – Myth vs Fact

Facilitation Tips

Ask participants if they know any local legends from their own communities. Invite them to consider why stories like "Peti" continue to be shared, even without historical evidence, before introducing the legend.

Cultural Heritage Support Notes

The legend of "Peti" is part of Novi Sad's contemporary urban folklore. Although it is not supported by historical evidence, the story reflects how communities create myths to explain unknown places, preserve local traditions, and strengthen cultural identity.

Reflection Questions

- Why do people continue to tell local legends?
- Can myths become part of cultural heritage?
- How can we distinguish between folklore and historical fact?

Support Material



During the Tour

Stop 9 : Enigma of the Maltese cross

Facilitation Tips

Invite participants to observe the symbols carved into the fortress walls before explaining their meaning. Ask them why symbols can remain important even when their original purpose is no longer fully understood.

Cultural Heritage Support Notes

The Maltese Cross is one of several historical symbols preserved within Petrovaradin Fortress. Although its exact significance at this location is uncertain, it reflects the military, religious, and cultural influences that have shaped the fortress throughout history.

Reflection Questions

- Why do symbols remain meaningful over time?
- How can one symbol have different interpretations?
- What can symbols tell us about a city's past?

Stop 10 : Tunnel under Danube – Invisible Systems

Facilitation Tips

Ask participants whether they think the legend of a tunnel beneath the Danube is true. Encourage them to discuss why stories about hidden places often survive even without historical proof.

Cultural Heritage Support Notes

Stories about tunnels beneath the Danube have been part of Novi Sad's folklore for generations. While no evidence confirms their existence, these legends demonstrate how oral traditions and local storytelling become part of a city's cultural heritage and collective memory.

Reflection Questions

- Why do hidden places inspire stories and legends?
- Can a story become part of heritage without historical evidence?
- How do local legends shape the identity of a city?

Support Material



During the Tour

Stop 11 : Church at Tekije – Snow in August

Facilitation Tips

Invite participants to observe the church and its surroundings before reading the text. Ask them how places connected to different cultures and religions can preserve multiple layers of history and memory.

Cultural Heritage Support Notes

The Church of Our Lady of Snow at Tekije stands on a site shaped by both Ottoman and Christian traditions. Its history and the legend of the "Snow in August" illustrate how historical events, religious beliefs, and local traditions together contribute to the cultural identity of Novi Sad.

Reflection Questions

- How can one place represent different cultures and traditions?
- Why are legends often connected to religious sites?
- What does this place teach us about coexistence and shared heritage?

Support Material



After the Tour

Total duration: 15–20 minutes

Objectives

Help participants:

- reflect on the relationship between history, myths, and collective memory;
- recognize the value of preserving both visible and hidden heritage;
- develop a critical perspective on historical narratives and local legends.

Group Management

Begin with a short individual reflection, continue with a group discussion, and conclude with a collective sharing activity. Encourage participants to respect different interpretations and support their opinions with examples from the tour.

Materials needed

- Sticky notes or notebook
- Pen

1. Fact, Myth or Memory? (5 minutes)

Ask participants:

"Which stop made you question the difference between history and legend?"

Invite a few participants to explain their choice.

2. Looking Beyond the Surface (5 minutes)

Discuss the following questions:

- Why do some stories survive for generations?
- How can myths influence the way people see a place?
- Should difficult parts of history be remembered as much as the positive ones?

3. Hidden Stories Matter (5–10 minutes)

Ask each participant to complete the sentence:

"One hidden story from Novi Sad that I will remember is..."

Invite participants to share their answers with the group and discuss how learning about lesser-known stories changed their perception of the city.

Finish

Conclude by emphasizing that understanding a city means looking beyond its landmarks and well-known history. Hidden stories, difficult events, local legends, and collective memory all contribute to a deeper understanding of cultural heritage and encourage us to think critically about how the past is remembered and interpreted.

Support Material



References

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