



LICENSOR OF EUROPRIDE

**EUROPEAN  
PRIDE** ORGANISERS  
ASSOCIATION

## Staying safe at EuroPride Belgrade

Belgrade Pride has taken place without incident for the last eight years, partly due to a significant police operation to protect the event and participants and also because of precautions taken by participants themselves. By taking some precautions, and always being mindful of your surroundings and situation, you can protect yourself while visiting Belgrade for EuroPride.

Belgrade Pride have published useful safety information [here](#). This is *additional* advice published by EPOA for its members and guests.

### Moving around the city

- Belgrade Pride have a welcome desk at Belgrade airport where you can get advice and information.
- Use public transport to travel between locations. Taxis can be hard to find but check that any taxi you use is properly licensed and the driver has photo ID on show. Avoid telling taxi drivers why you are in Belgrade.
- Belgrade Pride recommend an app called [CarGo](#), similar to Uber.
- If you book a taxi transfer from the airport, avoid using a Pride-related email address for the booking.
- Make sure you have a bank card or local currency (Serbian Dinar) to pay for public transport.
- If you are out late at night, avoid walking alone. If you are leaving a club or venue on your own, ask others who are leaving if they are going the same way and walk together or, if you can, take a taxi and share the taxi with other people.

European Pride Organisers Association aisbl

Rue du Marché au Charbon 42, 1000 Brussels, Belgium | [epoa.eu](http://epoa.eu) | [info@europride.info](mailto:info@europride.info)  
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- Only walk on main roads; avoid short cuts or routes with which you are unfamiliar.
- If you are in a group of people, don't be tempted to change your behaviour because you feel safe in the group. Always be vigilant.
- Have an alternative story of why you are in Belgrade in case a stranger asks and you feel you need to answer.
- Do not hold hands, kiss or express affection in the street or a public place, except when you are inside a Pride event.

## Clothing and appearance

- We recommend wearing neutral, plain clothing when moving around the city. Obvious Pride-related clothing should be covered up when you are making your way to and from venues.
- If you want to wear face paint for the March or events, carry it with you and apply it when you arrive. Remove it before you leave - remember to bring wet wipes or make-up remover.
- Even a bag with a Pride motto could make you a target. Bring a plain bag for carrying your essentials.
- Carry or wear a scarf or bandana: if police have to use tear gas to deal with a protest, you should use this to protect your nose and mouth to lessen the impact of the gas. Carry a water bottle to rinse your eyes as soon as you can and avoid wearing contact lenses (they must be removed if you come into contact with tear gas). If you are exposed to tear gas, go and shower and change clothes as soon as you can.

## Using dating apps

- Dating apps are sometimes used to entrap LGBTI+ people. If you plan to meet someone from an app, insist on a video call before you go to meet them so that you can feel more reassured that they are genuine.

- It's always safer to invite someone to your hotel or accommodation and first meet outside or in the hotel lobby, rather than going to them. If this is not possible, meet them in a public place.
- Always tell someone who is travelling with you where you are going, including the location. You can share your live location with a friend through WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger. And tell them when you have left again. If you are travelling alone, tell someone you trust back home so that they can check in on you.
- Follow the guidance on Monkeypox which can be found [on the EuroPride 2022 website](#).

## If you get into trouble or feel threatened

- If you feel threatened, go to a public place as quickly as you can - a transport hub, shopping mall, large shop, police station or hotel - and ask for help if you need it.
- Call 192 for police or 194 for ambulance in an emergency. Operators will speak Serbian and English.
- Report all hate incidents to the police, and also to Belgrade Pride by email ([parada@parada.rs](mailto:parada@parada.rs)) and EPOA by email ([info@europride.info](mailto:info@europride.info)). You can always go to the Pride Info Center ([Kralja Milana 20](#)) or the Pride House ([Youth Center, Makedonska 22](#)) for help.

## EuroPride March

- If you are bringing banners or a flag, make sure they can be carried discreetly to the starting point. Consider beforehand if you can dispose of the banner after the March rather than carrying it all day.
- Treat police with respect, they are on duty and there for your own protection. They can look intimidating and unfriendly, don't be put off by that. Trust their professionalism.
- Do not argue with the police no matter what.

- Do not try to approach anti-pride protesters and debate, fight or argue with them. It can be dangerous.
- In case of emergency, police may have to evacuate people to a safe location. Always follow police advice and do not try to leave if the police/organisers say it is unsafe.
- If you do not comply with the evacuation procedure or other safety measures in case of real danger, police will use force for your own protection.

## Other advice

- Take a photo of the photo page of your passport or ID and store this on your phone. If you can, bring a photocopy of that page and keep it in your hotel or accommodation.
- Save the number of your country's [Embassy in Belgrade](#) (or the Embassy that covers Serbia, which may be in another country, such as Bosnia) in your phone. You may wish to inform the Embassy in advance that you are attending.
- Make sure you have your travel and health insurance information saved in your phone and printed and kept in your hotel or accommodation.
- If you need to carry medication, it's a good idea to have evidence of the need for the medication (such as a prescription from a doctor) saved on your phone, especially if the packaging does not have your name on it. A photo should be sufficient.
- Save the phone numbers of your group in your phone; don't rely on apps like Messenger or WhatsApp as data systems may fail.
- Make sure your phone has a good level of battery and, if you can, bring a power pack. Keep your phone in a secure pocket.
- Wifi can be hard to find so make sure your data works in Serbia or buy a local SIM card on arrival.
- Do not accept drinks from strangers and do not buy or accept illegal drugs. The penalties are severe and the quality low: you will not know what you are taking and you might be spiked.