

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Country name	Bosnia and Herzegovina ¹
State title	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Name of citizen	Bosnian ²
National official language	Bosnian
Country name in official language	Bosna i Hercegovina
State title in official language	Bosna i Hercegovina
Writing system	Roman script (some Cyrillic script)
Romanization System	Not usually needed, see <i>Languages</i> section below Serbian Table of Correspondences between Roman and Cyrillic
ISO-3166 code (alpha-2/alpha-3)	BA/BIH
Capital (English conventional name)	Sarajevo
Capital in official language	Sarajevo
Population/Area	3.23 million ³ / 51,209km ²

Introduction

Bosnia and Herzegovina lies on the Balkan peninsula; it shares land boundaries with Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia and has a short Adriatic coastline. Since declaring independence after the fall of Yugoslavia in 1992, Bosnia and Herzegovina has suffered war, ethnic conflict, division and unrest. The Dayton Accords of 1995 divided the country into two 'entities' (see more below): the Bosniak and Croat *Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina*, and the Serb *Republika Srpska*.

Geographical names policy

PCGN policy for Bosnia and Herzegovina is to use official sources from the country. These will be predominantly written in Roman script so should be taken as represented locally, retaining any

¹ Bosnia and Herzegovina is the English country name. It is often referred to informally as Bosnia alone, though strictly speaking this refers to only a part of the country (the region of Herzegovina covering about 20% of the country). This is akin to the use of e.g. Great Britain for United Kingdom, or Holland for Netherlands.

² Bosnian is the usual adjective for the nationality (regardless of ethnicity), whereas Bosniak describes the ethnicity (see *Ethnic groups* below).

³ UN data as of 2022. Bosnia and Herzegovina's population continues to fall fairly steadily. There was a dramatic fall after the collapse of Yugoslavia during the 1990s war in which one third of the population was killed or displaced.

special letters and diacritical marks. Both Roman and Cyrillic scripts have official status across the country, but in practice Cyrillic is scarcely used in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and is unlikely to appear without an accompanying Roman-script form in Republika Srpska (see more below). If Serbian language sources are encountered in Cyrillic script only in Republika Srpska, these may be converted to Roman script using the [Table of Correspondences](#) between the two alphabets.

The official mapping and survey organisation of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is the Geodetic Administration [Home - Federal Geodetic Administration \(fgu.com.ba\)](#). Official topographic products are available from this body, though these are not free. There is also a geoportal containing official data, and this can be considered the best primary source for the Federation: [Geoportal - Preglednik \(katastar.ba\)](#).

Republika Srpska also maintains a geoportal: [Geoportal Republike Srpske \(rgurs.org\)](#) and this can be considered the best source for names in this entity. Note that this geoportal covers Brčko District⁴ (see *Administrative structure*), and as this is not administered as part of the entity, should not be considered a primary source here (though in reality there are likely to be no differences between official names and those shown in the geoportal). The names in this geoportal are presented in Serbian Roman script only (though the interface is available in English, Serbian Roman script and Serbian Cyrillic).

The US Board on Geographic Names (BGN) [Geographic Names Server](#) (GNS) database is also a good source for geographical names.

The website of the Statistics Agency for Bosnia and Herzegovina also includes useful administrative mapping: [Popis 2013 u BiH \(statistika.ba\)](#)

Languages

There are three official languages across Bosnia and Herzegovina: Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian. These were formerly considered a single language (Serbo-Croatian, having different, mutually intelligible, dialects. In some work on a [Declaration of the Common language](#) by a Balkan-wide group of linguists, academics and NGOs, this was described as a standard language of the polycentric type). The recognition of these dialects as separate languages is linked to national and ethnic identity. Some sources consider the languages as one: with an over-arching language code *hbs*⁵, other sources use the separate languages/codes: Bosnian (*bos*), Croatian (*hrv*) and Serbian (*srp*).

All these official languages are written in the Roman script. Serbian is written in both Roman and Cyrillic scripts, though if Cyrillic is used, it is unlikely to appear without Roman alongside. Should conversion between Serbian in its Cyrillic and Roman forms be needed, the Table of Correspondences available [here](#) may be used. If further guidance on the transfer between scripts is needed, please contact PCGN.

It is of note that Republika Srpska has made some efforts to promote greater use of Cyrillic, but this has been questioned as unconstitutional as it discriminates against Bosniaks and Croats that might live or work in Republika Srpska.

⁴ For names in Brčko District the [Geographic Names Server](#) database can be used.

⁵ ISO 639-3 codes are given for languages mentioned in this Factfile.

Ethnic groups

The ethnic composition of Bosnia and Herzegovina is quite difficult to ascertain precisely: the 2013 census recorded approximately 50% Bosniak, 31% Serb and 15% Croat, proportions that are not hugely different to those pre-independence. However, as noted earlier, even if the proportions are similar, the overall population has diminished significantly.

Inventory of characters (and their Unicode encodings⁶):

The Roman-script alphabets used for **Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian** contain the following letter-diacritic combinations in addition to the unmodified letters of the basic Roman script. These may also be seen in the [table of correspondences between Serbian Cyrillic and Roman](#)

Upper-case character	Unicode encoding	Lower-case character	Unicode encoding
Đ	0110	đ	0111
Ž	017D	ž	017E
Lj *	01C8	lj *	01C9
Nj *	01CB	nj	01CB
Ć	0106	ć	0107
Č	010C	č	010D
Dž *	01C5	dž *	01C6
Š	0160	š	0161

*Note that these characters can also be reproduced with individual letters (e.g. l+j).

⁶ See www.unicode.org

Administrative structure

Bosnia and Herzegovina is divided into 2 entities:

- the **Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina**, which devolves executive and legislative power to 10 cantons (federal units), each with their own constitution; each canton is divided into municipalities responsible for local self-government.
- and **Republika Srpska**, a unitary authority possessing a centralised power structure with the municipalities as the units of local self-government.
- a third area, **Brčko Distrikt** (often simply Brčko or Brcko District in English), which is administered centrally, also exists⁷. This is a single administrative unit of local self-government existing under the administration of the Bosnia and Herzegovina central government.



Map produced by PCGN for illustrative purposes only, and is not to be taken necessarily as representing the views of the UK government on boundaries or political status.

⁷ Part of the Inter-Entity Boundary Line in the area of Brčko remained disputed after the Dayton Peace Accords and an arbitration process was started to resolve this outstanding matter. The ensuing international arbitration determined in 1999 that the whole area of the former Municipality of Brčko, with boundaries as of 1st January 1991, would be designated a district “under the exclusive sovereignty of the State of BiH [Bosna i Hercegovina], with a single, multi-ethnic, democratic government”.

Though these entities can be considered the first level of division within the country, below this level the Federation is divided into 10 cantons. And across the country it is the municipalities that perform most local administrative functions. The cantons in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina are divided into 79 divisions: these are mostly municipalities (*općina*), but 21 of them are cities (*grad*); Republika Srpska is divided into 63 divisions (54 municipalities (*opština*)⁸ and 9 cities (*grad*)). A list of the municipalities/cities in each entity is shown below. The cities that have designated city status⁹ are properly termed ‘Grad xx’ – e.g. Grad Mostar, though this generic is often omitted. The cities are denoted with * in the tables below. Note that there are no ISO 3166 sub-division codes for these municipalities as the ISO standard captures the entities as the primary subdivisions (BIH, SRP and BRC, respectively)¹⁰.

Most municipalities take the name of the principal town that acts as the administrative centre (e.g. Općina Ključ). Some municipalities are parts of larger cities, e.g. Sarajevo comprises 4 municipalities of the Federation and additionally 6 municipalities are formed of the suburban areas and outskirts of Sarajevo (Istočno Sarajevo) within Republika Srpska. These are noted in the table below with †. The locations given below are the centre point of the territorial area of the municipality. Also of note, there are a few cases where there is a municipality of the same name in the Federation and Republika Srpska, e.g. Kupres.

The cantons within the Federation are:

Number	Name (Bosnian)	No. of municipalities	Location
Canton 1	Unsko-Sanski kanton ¹¹	8	44°44′13″N 16°11′37″E
Canton 2	Posavski kanton	3	45°03′11″N 18°29′39″E
Canton 3	Tuzlanski kanton	13	44°32′42″N 18°36′06″E
Canton 4	Zeničko-Dobojski kanton	12	44°13′48″N 18°11′32″E
Canton 5	Bosansko-Podrinjski kanton Goražde ¹²	3	43°39′19″N 18°48′00″E
Canton 6	Srednjobosanski kanton	12	44°05′54″N 17°39′20″E
Canton 7	Hercegovačko-Neretvanski kanton	9	43°27′26″N 17°48′45″E
Canton 8	Zapadnohercegovački kanton	4	43°24′01″N 17°25′26″E
Canton 9	Kanton Sarajevo	9	43°50′36″N 18°14′32″E
Canton 10 ¹³	Kanton 10	6	43°58′43″N 16°51′23″E

⁸ Note the slight difference in the preferred spelling of this term in each entity.

⁹ There are 32 designated cities across the country: 21 in the Federation, 9 in Republika Srpska, plus Sarajevo and Istočno Sarajevo, which as noted are not shown in the tables as these cities comprise 6 and 4 municipalities, respectively.

¹⁰ If codes for the municipalities should be needed, the 5 digit codes found in the table of the Bosnian statistics website: [Popis 2013 u BiH \(statistika.ba\)](https://statistika.ba) can be used.

¹¹ Kanton is the usual generic term in Bosnian and Serbian sources. Croatian sources may use the term *županija*. Note too that PCGN recommends retaining the lower-case initial for the generic term where it is used in an official source.

¹² This form, including the specifier of the canton’s centre (Goražde), appears to be the official name.

¹³ Previously Hercegovačko-Bosanski kanton, also seen as Zapadnobosanski kanton and Livanjski kanton.

Municipalities of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Canton number (see table above)	Location
Banovići	3	44°23'33"N 18°28'10"E
Bihać *	1	44°46'08"N 15°59'27"E
Bosanska Krupa *	1	44°53'06"N 16°10'32"E
Bosanski Petrovac	1	44°36'10"N 16°21'07"E
Bosansko Grahovo	10	44°10'00"N 16°25'00"E
Breza	4	44°00'24"N 18°16'33"E
Bugojno	6	44°02'04"N 17°27'49"E
Busovača	6	44°04'13"N 17°53'40"E
Bužim	1	45°03'03"N 16°05'20"E
Čapljina *	7	43°07'10"N 17°43'08"E
Cazin *	1	44°59'12"N 15°56'06"E
Čelić	3	44°41'23"N 18°41'20"E
Centar Sarajevo †	9	43°53'09"N 18°24'03"E
Čitluk	7	43°14'16"N 17°40'29"E
Doboj Istok	3	44°43'17"N 18°10'43"E
Doboj Jug	4	44°40'04"N 18°03'00"E
Dobretići	6	44°23'09"N 17°25'01"E
Domaljevac-Šamac	2	45°02'15"N 18°33'00"E
Donji Vakuf	6	44°09'38"N 17°23'16"E
Drvar	10	44°21'31"N 16°24'27"E
Foča-Ustikolina	5	43°36'46"N 18°42'16"E
Fojnica	6	43°56'44"N 17°53'06"E
Glamoč	10	44°05'07"N 16°50'30"E
Goražde *	5	43°39'51"N 18°51'54"E
Gornji Vakuf-Uskoplje	6	43°56'00"N 17°36'00"E
Gračanica *	3	44°43'36"N 18°18'35"E
Gradačac *	3	44°50'20"N 18°24'22"E
Grude	8	43°21'26"N 17°21'25"E
Hadžići	9	43°46'16"N 18°08'41"E
Ilidža	9	43°49'50"N 18°16'46"E
Ilijaš	9	44°00'47"N 18°25'15"E
Jablanica	7	43°39'16"N 17°43'16"E
Jajce	6	44°20'28"N 17°18'52"E
Kakanj	4	44°09'34"N 18°08'19"E
Kalesija	3	44°27'14"N 18°50'28"E
Kiseljak	6	43°55'44"N 18°03'28"E
Kladanj	3	44°15'07"N 18°40'06"E
Ključ	1	44°34'32"N 16°45'17"E
Konjic *	7	43°37'46"N 17°58'35"E
Kreševo	6	43°51'07"N 18°01'01"E

Municipalities of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Canton number (see table above)	Location
Kupres	10	43°56'05"N 17°15'42"E
Livno *	10	43°50'35"N 16°52'45"E
Ljubuški *	8	43°13'20"N 17°30'02"E
Lukavac *	3	44°31'26"N 18°26'16"E
Maglaj	4	44°31'45"N 18°04'58"E
Mostar *	7	43°25'17"N 17°49'25"E
Neum	7	42°56'59"N 17°44'05"E
Novi Grad Sarajevo †	9	43°51'29"N 18°19'12"E
Novi Travnik	6	44°04'13"N 17°39'31"E
Novo Sarajevo †	9	43°51'12"N 18°22'33"E
Odžak	2	45°02'51"N 18°18'16"E
Olovo	4	44°09'45"N 18°33'17"E
Orašje *	2	44°59'26"N 18°40'02"E
Pale-Prača	5	43°44'35"N 18°47'37"E
Posušje	8	43°30'07"N 17°20'02"E
Prozor-Rama	7	43°47'43"N 17°35'49"E
Ravno	7	42°46'51"N 18°01'03"E
Sanski Most	1	44°44'49"N 16°34'53"E
Sapna	3	44°32'10"N 18°57'09"E
Široki Brijeg *	8	43°23'29"N 17°33'07"E
Srebrenik *	3	44°41'05"N 18°30'41"E
Stari Grad †	9	43°53'16"N 18°27'03"E
Stolac *	7	43°05'00"N 17°52'49"E
Teočak	3	44°35'56"N 18°58'05"E
Tešanj	4	44°37'18"N 17°58'37"E
Tomislavgrad	10	43°42'00"N 17°15'00"E
Travnik	6	44°17'01"N 17°38'36"E
Trnovo	9	43°40'39"N 18°21'03"E
Tuzla *	3	44°33'13"N 18°39'31"E
Usora	4	44°41'33"N 18°00'43"E
Vareš	4	44°08'22"N 18°20'45"E
Velika Kladuša	1	45°08'52"N 15°57'49"E
Visoko *	4	43°59'48"N 18°08'18"E
Vitez	6	44°07'18"N 17°46'04"E
Vogošća	9	43°54'35"N 18°20'55"E
Zavidovići *	4	44°20'57"N 18°13'30"E
Zenica *	4	44°15'23"N 17°56'15"E
Žepče	4	44°25'10"N 17°58'11"E
Živinice *	3	44°24'34"N 18°38'51"E

Municipalities of Republika Srpska	Location
Banja Luka *	44°43'55"N 17°05'15"E
Berkovići	43°07'11"N 18°03'45"E
Bijeljina *	44°45'57"N 19°09'03"E
Bileća	42°59'37"N 18°21'39"E
Bratunac	44°11'25"N 19°18'54"E
Brod	45°03'01"N 18°03'32"E
Čajniče	43°34'31"N 19°06'20"E
Čelinac	44°43'37"N 17°25'02"E
Derventa *	44°56'23"N 17°55'00"E
Doboj *	44°45'34"N 18°03'54"E
Donji Žabar	44°56'44"N 18°38'47"E
Foča	43°26'19"N 18°46'30"E
Gacko	43°10'58"N 18°31'35"E
Gradiška *	45°03'27"N 17°11'10"E
Han Pijesak	44°03'25"N 18°55'42"E
Istočna Ilidža †	43°47'09"N 18°21'44"E
Istočni Drvar	44°24'27"N 16°37'46"E
Istočni Mostar	43°25'14"N 18°00'30"E
Istočni Stari Grad †	43°51'26"N 18°29'18"E
Istočno Novo Sarajevo †	43°48'17"N 18°24'18"E
Jezero	44°19'01"N 17°10'27"E
Kalinovik	43°27'40"N 18°25'48"E
Kneževo	44°28'01"N 17°23'22"E
Kostajnica	45°10'57"N 16°34'26"E
Kotor Varoš	44°32'20"N 17°30'09"E
Kozarska Dubica	45°07'29"N 16°49'28"E
Krupa na Uni	44°55'47"N 16°16'31"E
Kupres	44°04'49"N 17°09'27"E
Laktaši *	44°52'36"N 17°20'11"E
Ljubinje	42°57'11"N 18°06'32"E
Lopare	44°37'41"N 18°50'12"E
Milići	44°08'38"N 19°04'57"E
Modriča	44°54'57"N 18°15'10"E
Mrkonjić Grad	44°25'01"N 17°02'14"E
Nevesinje	43°15'28"N 18°09'42"E
Novi Grad	45°01'54"N 16°29'47"E
Novo Goražde	43°39'44"N 19°01'31"E
Osmaci	44°23'33"N 18°55'59"E
Oštra Luka	44°43'58"N 16°49'43"E
Pale †	43°48'00"N 18°37'28"E

Municipalities of Republika Srpska	Location
Pelagićevo	44°52'44"N 18°32'17"E
Petrovac	44°29'01"N 16°33'52"E
Petrovo	44°37'54"N 18°17'03"E
Prijedor *	44°57'01"N 16°47'14"E
Prnjavor	44°51'32"N 17°39'10"E
Ribnik	44°26'57"N 16°48'49"E
Rogatica	43°50'00"N 19°02'33"E
Rudo	43°38'44"N 19°20'37"E
Šamac	44°59'01"N 18°29'52"E
Šekovići	44°17'42"N 18°50'06"E
Šipovo	44°12'45"N 17°07'40"E
Sokolac †	43°57'47"N 18°46'36"E
Srbac	45°01'36"N 17°34'19"E
Srebrenica	44°03'55"N 19°18'58"E
Stanari	44°46'04"N 17°50'08"E
Teslić	44°34'22"N 17°43'55"E
Trebinje *	42°44'03"N 18°18'44"E
Trnovo †	43°44'26"N 18°25'35"E
Ugljevik	44°39'06"N 18°59'50"E
Višegrad	43°43'18"N 19°18'49"E
Vlasenica	44°11'38"N 18°54'36"E
Vukosavlje	45°00'31"N 18°14'35"E
Zvornik *	44°24'37"N 19°02'29"E

Other Significant Locations

PCGN Approved Name ¹⁴	Name in Bosnia and Herzegovina	Conventional name	Other names	Location	Feature Type
Dinaric Alps	Dinaridi	Dinaric Alps	Alpi Dinariche (<i>ita</i>); Dinarsko gorstvo (<i>slo</i>); Динариди / Dinaridi (<i>srp</i>); Alpet Dinarike (<i>sqi</i>)	45° 00' 00"N 17° 00' 00"E	Mountain range (Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Albania)
Drina	Drina	-		44° 53' 28"N 19° 21' 23"E	River (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia)
Kozara	Kozara	-		44° 57' 57"N 17° 05' 19"E	Mountains/national park
Maglić	Maglić	-	Маглић / Maglić (<i>srp</i>)	43° 16' 52"N 18° 43' 59"E	Mountain (Bosnia and Herzegovina's high point, cross-boundary feature with Montenegro)
Neretva	Neretva	-		43° 41' 31"N 17° 43' 56"E	River (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia)
Sava	Sava	-	Сава / Sava (<i>srp</i>)	44° 49' 27"N 20° 26' 38"E	River (Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia)

¹⁴ PCGN usually recommends use of conventional names for international features where they exist. If there is no conventional name, or if a product requires local forms, then the relevant name can be shown on the appropriate side of the international boundary on cartographic products.

Useful references

- BBC Country Profile: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-17211415>
- CIA World Factbook: <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/bosnia-and-herzegovina/>
- Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina geoportal: [Geoportal - Preglednik \(katastar.ba\)](http://Geoportal-Preglednik(katastar.ba))
- Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Travel Advice: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>
- International Organization for Standardization (ISO): www.iso.org
- ISO Online Browsing Platform (OBP): <https://www.iso.org/obp/ui>
- Languages: <https://www.ethnologue.com/>, www.omniglot.com
- Republika Srpska geoportal: [Geoportal Republike Srpske \(rgurs.org\)](http://GeoportalRepublikeSrpske(rgurs.org))
- Statistics Agency for Bosnia and Herzegovina: [Popis 2013 u BiH \(statistika.ba\)](http://Popis2013uBiH(statistika.ba))
- Unicode Consortium: www.unicode.org
- US Board on Geographic Names Server: [Geographic Names Server](http://GeographicNamesServer)
- US BGN Geographic Names Standardization Policy for Bosnia and Herzegovina: [BosniaandHerzegovina Country Policy webversion revSept2019.pdf \(nga.mil\)](http://BosniaandHerzegovinaCountryPolicywebversionrevSept2019.pdf(nga.mil))

Compiled by PCGN
www.gov.uk/pcgn
info@pcgn.org.uk
March 2023