Spaç Prison

Location: Albania

Spaç Prison, located in the northern part of Albania, is a former communist concentration camp that was operational from 1968 until 1991. The prison was built in a remote area to house political prisoners who were deemed a threat to the regime of dictator Enver Hoxha.  The conditions in the prison were inhumane, and prisoners were subjected to torture, forced labor, and execution. The prisoners were forced to work in nearby mines, quarries, and forests, and many died due to the harsh conditions. After the fall of communism in 1991, the prison was abandoned and left to decay. In 2014, a group of Albanian and foreign architects and designers created the [Memory and Resistance Museum] at the site, with the aim of preserving the memory of the atrocities that occurred there and raising awareness about the importance of human rights. Today, the museum includes several exhibition rooms that showcase the history of the prison, as well as personal stories of the prisoners who were incarcerated there. The museum also has a library, an archive, and an education center where visitors can learn about the prison and the human rights abuses that occurred there. Spaç Prison has become an important site of memory and resistance in Albania, reminding visitors of the atrocities that were committed under the communist regime and the importance of human rights and freedom.

