

PRIZREN

in your pocket

2010 - 2011



Kingdom of the Netherlands

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A church with 3 names

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"The IYP crew have created the first English-language city guides in Kosovo, with lots of practical information that until now has been very difficult to find anywhere. The maps and public transport information are particularly welcome." **Balkanology.com**

"We love the IYP series. The embassy included one in my new employee welcome folder. I have found the guide to be invaluable in navigating my way through the city. Looking forward to the Prizren edition!" **Jennie Kim, Public Diplomacy Section, US Embassy in Kosovo**

"Pristina In Your Pocket is an important source of information and we wish you success!" **Fatbardha Aliu, Finland Embassy in Kosovo**

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"I just have to thank you for publishing Tirana IYP. I travelled around Kosovo, Albania and Macedonia alone for two weeks. The map was fantastic and the information on the sights and the restaurants were spot on." **Jen Clarke, Australia**

"We visited Tirana as an independent group. In Your Pocket has been an excellent help in providing us the information which we need. There are not any other companies that supply honest hotel, restaurant and nightlife info." **Greg Axon, United Kingdom**

"Just got back from a weekend in Pristina with a group of ten. The Pristina In Your Pocket guide was marvellous - we even used the pizza delivery service mentioned!" **Edward Marshall, UK**

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ESSENTIAL CITY GUIDES

Contents

Arriving in Prizren	5
Basics	6
Electricity, money, visas and more	
History	8
From settlement to independence	
Filigran	9
Prizren's delicate craft speciality	
Culture & Events	10
From tubing to the film festival	
Where to stay	12
All the lodging options	
Dining & Nightlife	13
From Kosovar food and pizza, to cafés and bars	
Sightseeing	16
From fortress views to mosques and churches	
Daytrips	24
Explore the beautiful surroundings	
Gjakova	29
A charming market town	
Brezovica	30
The Balkans' top ski resort	
Getting around	32
When legs just aren't enough	
Mail & Phones	34
Keeping in touch	
Shopping	35
From the basics to luxuries	
Directory	36
Handy listings	
Maps & Index	
Region map	24
City map	38
City centre & cultural heritage map	40
Index & Street register	42

Picture a charming Balkan city. A city draped along the banks of a shallow river and backed by towering green mountains, a city linked to the coast and the interior by ancient trade routes, a city dotted with elegant old buildings constructed over many centuries, a city covered by snow in the cold winters and by dust in the hot summers, a city that has seen many different people and rulers come and go, a city that has seen destruction and restoration many times over, a city that has survived and overcome adversity, a city that is now looking firmly to the future. Prizren is this city, and *Prizren In Your Pocket* is its first English-language travel guide.

As Kosovo's 'cultural capital' with many summertime festivals and the prettiest city centre of the country, Prizren has what it takes to make an interesting destination for foreign leisure and business travellers. This old city with its young population is a great place to visit, be it on a quick stopover en route from Pristina or Skopje to the Albanian coast, or on a longer trip taking in the beautiful mountainous surroundings.

Finding reliable practical travel information has always been hard in the Balkans, but with the arrival of this guide, there's a multitude of tips and ideas available at your fingertips - whether you're flipping through the print edition or clicking away on the *Prizren In Your Pocket* website. This guide was written with the reader in mind, and we'd be delighted to hear from you about your experiences visiting Prizren; feel free to email us at prizren@inyourpocket.com. Enjoy Kosovo, and enjoy Prizren.

Cover story



Everyday life in Prizren: people stroll past the shops and bars along the Lumbardhi river, with the newly restored Sinan Pasha Mosque, the city's main landmark, towering overhead and with the Catholic Church in the background.

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Prizren In Your Pocket

Prizren In Your Pocket
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Cover photo Sinan Pasha mosque, by Veton Nukollari

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Editor's note

The editorial content of In Your Pocket guides is independent from paid-for advertising. We welcome all readers' comments and suggestions. We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information at the time of going to press and assume no responsibility for changes and errors.

About CHwB

The Cultural Heritage without Borders Kosovo Office works to preserve and promote endangered cultural monuments by using integrated conservation, restoration, capacity building of heritage institutions and raising awareness about cultural heritage. Apart from collaborating on the production of the guide, ChwB will distribute 5,000 copies of the print guide in Prizren and Kosovo.

Europe In Your Pocket



In Your Pocket is once again set to break new ground, this time going Dutch with a move into the **Netherlands**. The first issue of 's-Hertogenbosch (*Den Bosch*) In Your Pocket is currently in the latter stages of preparation, and will appear in the first half of 2010. Out in summer 2010 in Kosovo is the brand new **Prizren** In Your Pocket,

a splendid guide to the city and surrounding mountains produced in collaboration with a local NGO. A Peja In Your Pocket guide is to follow a few months later. Keep up with all *In Your Pocket* news and events and become a fan on **Facebook** (facebook.com/inyourpocket) and follow us on **Twitter** (twitter.com/inyourpocket). We welcome enquiries from anyone who'd like to start up an **In Your Pocket** franchise. Send us an email requesting more information to publisher@inyourpocket.com

About this guide

Prizren In Your Pocket is the first English-language city guide to Kosovo's cultural capital, and is part of an acclaimed Europe-wide series. The guide aims to help foreign visitors independently plan trips to the city and the region by providing reliable information. This guide is available in print as well as online at www.prizreninyourpocket.com or www.chwbkosovo.org, where all texts can be browsed for free or downloaded as a free printable PDF guide.

Prizren In Your Pocket is produced by In Your Pocket in partnership with the Swedish Foundation Cultural Heritage without Borders (ChwB) - Kosovo Office, supported by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Kosovo and other local partners in Prizren.



Lidhur me këtë udhërrëfyes

Prizren In Your Pocket është udhërrëfyes i parë në gjithë angleze, dedikuar kryeqytetit kultur të Kosovës, dhe i takon serisë së udhërrëfyesve të vlerësuar në mbarë Evropën. Udhërrëfyesi synon që në mënyrë të pavarur t'i ndihmojë vizitorët e huaj në planifikimin e udhëtimit të tyre në qytet dhe rrethi, duke ofruar informata të besueshme. Ky udhërrëfyes është në dispozicion në formë të shtrypur dhe në formë elektronike përmes web faqeve www.prizreninyourpocket.com ose www.chwbkosovo.org, ku të gjitha tekstit mund të shiftohen apo të shkarkohen falas në formatin PDF.

Prizren In Your Pocket është hartuar nga In Your Pocket në bashkëpunim me Fondacionin Suedez Trashëgimia Kulturore pa Kufij (ChwB) – zyra në Kosovë, e mbështetur nga Ambasada e Mbretërisë Holandeze në Kosovë dhe partnerët tjerë lokal në Prizren.

O ovom vodiču

Prizren In Your Pocket je prvi vodič na engleskom jeziku namjenjen glavnom gradu kulture Kosova, i pripada seriji cenjenih vodiča sirom Evropu. Glavni cilj vodiča je da omogući i pomogne stranim posetiocima da samostalno planiraju posetu grada i regiona, davajući im tačne informacije. Ovaj vodič se može naći u štampanom i elektronskom izdanju, na web stranicama www.prizreninyourpocket.com i www.chwbkosovo.org, gde se tekstovi mogu prelistati ili bezplatno preuzeti u PDF formatu.

Prizren In Your Pocket, sastavljen je i izdaje se od strane In Your Pocket u saradnji sa Svedskom Fondacijom Kulturno Naslede bez Granica (ChwB) – kancelarija na Kosovu, uz podršku Ambasade Kraljevine Holandije na Kosovu i drugih lokalnih partnera u Prizrenu.

Rehber hakkında

Prizren In Your Pocket, Kosova'nın kültür başkenti için yazılan ve Avrupa çapında serisinin önemli bir parçası olan ilk İngilizce Prizren şehir rehberidir. Bu rehber, güvenilir bilgi sağlayarak yabancı ziyaretçilerin şehir ve bölge gezilerini bağımsız bir şekilde planlamlarına yardımcı olmayı amaçlamaktadır. Rehbere, basılı olmasının yanı sıra online olarakla www.prizreninyourpocket.com ve www.chwbkosovo.org web-sítelerinden PDF formatında ve ücretsiz ulaşılabilir.

Prizren In Your Pocket, In Your Pocket ve İşveç Vakfı Sırsız Kültürel Miras (ChwB) Kosova Ofisi ortaklığı tarafından, Hollanda Kralıtı Kosova Büyükelçiliği ve Prizren'deki diğer yerel ortakların destekleriyle yayınlanmaktadır.

Prizren is located in southern Kosovo, 75km southwest of the capital Pristina, and 72km southeast of Peja.

By plane

Pristina International Airport (PRN, www.airportpristina.com) is a modern, well-connected airport situated 15km west of Pristina. Taking a taxi directly to Prizren will cost €45-60 if you call a taxi company in advance. Alternatively, take a taxi (for around €15-25) to Pristina's bus station, from where there are regular buses to Prizren. Pristina taxi companies include London Taxi tel. +377 44 30 03 00, Victory tel. +386 49 11 12 22, and Roberti tel. +377 44 11 19 99. Macedonia's Skopje airport is just 75km to the east of Prizren and offers more international connections. Passengers landing there can take a taxi to Skopje's bus station for the two daily buses direct to Prizren.

By bus

Prizren is served by a plethora of local and international buses, making it a convenient stop on a trans-Balkan trip. The opening of the new Albanian highway has seen travel time from Tirana to Prizren slashed from 8 to just 3 hours. Prizren's small bus station is just west of the centre along Rruga De Rada. There's not much in the way of facilities besides kiosks and a bus information office. To get to town, a taxi will cost about €1, or hop on any bus heading east; the €0.30 tickets can be bought on board. Else, it's an easy 10-minute walk down Rruga De Rada and left onto Rruga Remzi Ademi; the city centre and Shadërvan square are just across the river.

By car

All roads lead to the city centre, and drivers approaching Prizren from Pristina or Peja will easily find the city centre (*qender*) by following the signs. Guarded parking is available near the Alhambra restaurant and by the Oltas Pension.



Kërëk Mosque, built by arriving Ottomans 1455

Street smarts

In Prizren, street signs are written in all three official languages: Albanian, Serbian and Turkish. Many locals don't use street names and use landmarks for orientation, simply asking for directions when they get lost - something readers of this guide will probably need to do themselves too.

Rruga	Street
Sheshi	Square
Autostrada	Highway
Ura	Bridge

Alcohol

Alcohol in Kosovo is relatively cheap and drunk in moderation. Beer is widely available, the most well known local brand being Peja, a light beer from the city of the same name in the western part of the country. Wine is gaining in popularity, helped by the local clement weather which favours the growing of several types of grape. The Stone Castle vineyard just outside Rahovec, some 25km northwest of Prizren, produces a number of very drinkable wines, many of them sold in restaurants and bars around the country. The local firewater is *raki*, a distilled spirit made from grapes. Note that many cafés, bars and restaurants do not serve alcohol during Ramadan.

Crime & Safety

The local population easily qualifies as one of the friendliest in Europe if not the world. Smiles and nods are returned with glee and the people are genuinely interested in who you are. The crime rate in Prizren is very low compared to other European cities, though visitors should always keep an eye on valuables and never leave wallets, mobile phones and other articles unattended, and avoid walking in unlit streets at night. Gaping holes in pavements and roads are probably the biggest cause for concern. The foreign embassies in Pristina should be your first port of call if you find yourself in any serious difficulties.

Disabled travellers

With the exception of a few new hotels, restaurants and government buildings, no facilities for the disabled exist in Kosovo. A local organisation called Handicap Kosova (Handikos) monitors the implementation of the national action plan for the disabled.

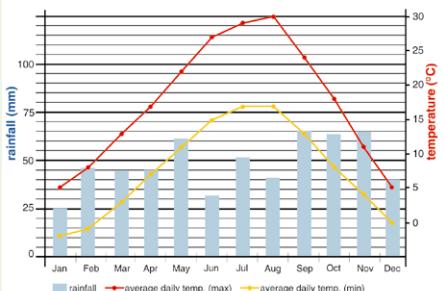
Electricity

When it works, electrical current is 220V AC and is distributed by Kosovo's KEK electricity company via standard European round, two-pin sockets. Power cuts do happen, with back-up generators filling the void when the lights go out. Countless well-paid foreign experts have been working on the tricky power situation for the last decade. In short, bring a torch.



The town hall wall thanks the Kosovo recognisees

Climate



Government, EULEX & KFOR

After the 1999 war, UN Security Council Resolution 1244 placed Kosovo under administration of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). Present-day Kosovo, after the declaration of independence, has established its own parliament, government and local institutions, cooperating closely with the EU, represented by the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) and which took over from UNMIK in 2010. The Kosovo Police and Kosovo Security Forces work with NATO's KFOR (Kosovo Force) to establish and maintain security. The European Union remains the largest donor providing assistance to Kosovo and South Eastern Europe as a whole, with Kosovo receiving more than €2 billion since 1999. These funds were initially for emergency relief and reconstruction, though nowadays more is spent on the development of stable institutions and economic development.

Health

Travelling with private health insurance is recommended, meaning if you do get ill you're entitled to treatment at one of the country's private clinics. The water in Prizren, supplied by four natural springs and the local river, is safe to drink, although bottled water is widely available in shops.

Language

The two official state languages of Kosovo are Albanian and Serbian, although the vast majority of the population speaks Albanian. Prizren is unusual in that it actually has three official languages, namely Albanian, Serbian and Turkish. Gorani, Romani and Bosnian are also spoken in and around the city. Major road signs are marked in both Albanian and Serbian. Signs inside Prizren's city limits are in Albanian, Serbian and Turkish. To make things more complicated, Albanian city names have two different endings (Prizren/Prizreni, Prishtina/Prishtinë etc) and many places are known by both their Albanian and Serbian names (Peja/Peć). Most young urban people can be expected to speak some English, otherwise you'll need to get by with a little German, a smattering of French and the inevitable sign language.

Exchange rates

€1 = £0,82 = US\$1,28
(August 20, 2010)

Purchasing power

How far does your euro, pound or dollar go in Prizren?

Espresso	€0,50
Glass of local beer (0.5 litre)	€1,50
Mineral water (1 litre)	€1
Mars bar	€0,40
Hamburger	€1
Public transport ticket	€0,30
100km by bus/train	€3

Money & Costs

Kosovo uses the euro (€). Euro banknotes come in denominations of €5, €10, €20, €50, €100, €200 and €500. Coins, whose design depends on in which country they were minted, come in denominations of €0.01, €0.02, €0.05, €0.10, €0.20, €0.50, €1 and €2. Cash is still king in Kosovo, so make sure you have enough cash on you in and around Prizren as only a limited amount of places accept credit or debit cards, though this situation is changing fast. As everywhere, be wary of card fraud. Don't let your card stray out of sight when paying for something. ATMs are abundant in urban areas and the best way of getting cash. Life for foreigners is cheap in Kosovo; see the purchasing power box.



Reconstructing the Sinan Pasha mosque porch

Public holidays

1-2 January	New Year
7 January	Orthodox Christmas
17 February	Independence Day
24 April 2011	Easter Sunday
9 April	Constitution Day
1 May	Labour Day
9 May	Europe Day
9 Sept 2010, 30 Aug 2011	Eid al-Fitr (Fitr Bajrami)
16 Nov 2010, 6 Nov 2011	Eid al-Adha (Kurban Bajrami)
25 December	Catholic Christmas

Religion

Most Kosovar Albanians and some other communities are officially Sunni Muslims, with a small percentage adhering to the Sufi orders, and a good smattering of Catholics. Relations between the faiths are very good. Kosovo's Serbian population is predominantly Orthodox. Kosovo, like Albania, is considerably more secular than Turkey or the Middle East; drinking and smoking are not taboos for many, and women's headscarves are a rare sight, especially in urban areas.

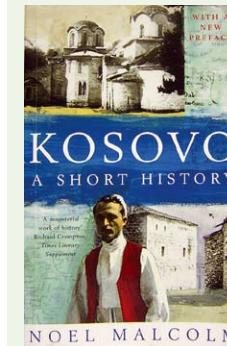
Toilets

Public toilets (€0,50) can be found under the bridge opposite the Theranda hotel. Elsewhere, your best bet is to walk into any hotel, café or restaurant and ask when nature calls. Carry an emergency supply of toilet paper to be on the safe side.

Visas & Entry formalities

Citizens of the EU, the USA and Canada and can stay in Kosovo for 90 days without further paperwork. In fact, Kosovo has no special visa requirements at all for anybody. As Serbia doesn't acknowledge Kosovo's independence, it considers it illegal for anyone to be there without a valid Serbian entry stamp, although as long as you enter and leave from a third country there's not much they can do about it. When travelling from Kosovo to Serbia and on to another country, some travellers have reported problems, though these seem to be on the decrease. It's not a problem to travel through Serbia to Kosovo and then leave through a third country.

Historical reading



Published just before the NATO bombs started falling in 1999, 'Kosovo: A Short History' is Noel Malcolm's epic history of Kosovo, generally acknowledged to be the most balanced critique of one of the world's most misunderstood, historically enigmatic and politically sensitive regions. An Oxford history graduate, Malcolm's colossal history attempts to understand the current situation in Kosovo by analysing almost every manuscript relating to the demographics of the region written over the last fifteen hundred years. By looking at censuses, diaries, ancient travelogues and other documents the book discovers more booby traps than answers, introduces the reader to the strange and complicated world of the crypto-Catholic and generally serves as an excellent tool for unlocking the strange and beautiful culture of the southern Balkans. The author remains apolitical enough to give the reader an entertaining as well as a thought-provoking read.

Kosovo: A Short History by Noel Malcolm. Pan, 1998, 492 pages, ISBN 0330412248.

Situated below a strategic hill on the border of a fertile plain, Prizren was always at the crossroads of important trade routes from the Adriatic coast into the Balkans.

Antiquity The Prizren valley area was settled by Illyrians, the Dardani tribe. Prizren was first mentioned as the Roman town of Theranda in Ptolemy's *Geography* in the 2nd century AD, and later as Petriten by Procopius of Caesarea in *De aedificiis* in the 5th century.

11th Century Prizren was mentioned as the bishopric of Prisdriana in the Charter of the Byzantine Emperor Basil II of 1018.

12th Century The northern territories of present-day Albania and parts of Kosovo were in Slavic hands, and by 1190 Kosovo became the administrative and cultural centre of the medieval Serbian state.

13th Century Immediately after the Fourth Crusade of 1204, Prizren was ruled by the Bulgarians. In 1216, Prizren was conquered by Stefan II Nemanjić, but the town was later gradually retaken by the Bulgarians. Besides trade, culture and arts flourish in this period, and the Arber family of Balshaj became prominent.

14th Century As a free-trade town, Prizren reached the culmination of its development, looking much like a medieval town in Western Europe with sophisticated fortifications, a civitas (administrative and economic centre) and a castrum or castellum (castle town). During the first half of the 14th century, Prizren was an important trading centre for merchants from the city of Ragusa (modern-day Dubrovnik) and in order to protect their interests, Ragusans founded a consulate to represent them and established institutions such as a customs office, a mint, a church and a hospital. The town was residence for the Catholic, Byzantine, Bulgarian and Serb bishops, and numerous important churches were constructed, reconstructed and converted. Conflicts and political division dominated the second half of the 14th century. The Ottoman Empire made its first attempts to get a foothold on the Balkans, and clash with the Serbs and its allies at the famous Battle of Kosovo in 1389.

15th-18th Centuries Prizren was conquered by the Ottoman Empire in 1455. The city witnessed another boom period in the 16th century when it became the cultural centre of Kosovo. Marvelous Ottoman monuments such as the Mosque and the Hamam of Gazi Mehmet Pasha were built, as well as other public buildings such as madrasah schools and inns. Prizren was briefly conquered by the Austrians and their allies in the late 17th century, but the Ottomans quickly retook the town. Gradually many locals converted to Islam, and by 1857 over 70% of Prizren's population was Muslim. Under Ottoman rule, a large number of merchants set up shops and bazaars in Prizren, capitalising on the strong economical relations across the empire. Consulates of Austro-Hungary, England, France and Russia were opened in Prizren during this period. Since Prizren was one of the administrative centres of Kosovo vilayet (province), Turkish, besides other languages, remains widely spoken and understood.

19th Century Prizren took centre stage in the Albanian national revival when the League of Prizren was created on June 10, 1878, attended by some 300 delegates from what is now Kosovo, Albania and Macedonia, joined by Muslim leaders from Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Sandzak. The aim of the League was to achieve autonomy for the vilayets (provinces) of Shkodra, Janina, Manastir and Kosovo within the framework of the Ottoman Empire. On June 13, 1878, the 60-member League led by Ymer Prizreni sent a letter to settle the Great Powers at the Congress of Berlin, asking to settle

the issue. The memorandum was ignored and the territories were given to Serbia and Montenegro.

20th Century to 1990 After the first Balkan War of 1912, the Conference of Ambassadors in London allowed the creation of the state of Albania and handed Kosovo to Serbia, even though the population of Kosovo remained mostly Albanian. The peace treaties after the First World War established the 'Kingdom of Slovenes, Croats and Serbs', of which Kosovo was a part. In 1946, the Yugoslav constitution failed to grant territorial autonomy to Kosovo or recognise Albanians as a distinct nation, but the new constitution of 1974 made Kosovo an autonomous province and it became one of eight federal units of the Yugoslav Federation with veto right. But in 1989 the Serbian government proposed to take away Kosovo's autonomy, with Milosevic giving his now famous speech at Fushë Kosovo (Kosovo Polje), promising to return the two autonomous provinces of Vojvodina and Kosovo to Serbian authority. In Prizren, vital elements of the historic city centre such as old bazaars, religious buildings, public fountains, traditional houses and inns were lost during 'modernisation' campaigns in the socialist Yugoslav years.

1990-1999 After Kosovo's autonomy was unilaterally abolished in 1989, civil disturbances erupted throughout Kosovo. Political pluralism began creating conditions for the first political parties which sought for independence through a non-violent solution. These efforts did not end the crisis and in 1997 the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) made its first public appearance. With fighting the KLA as a pretext, Serbia caused thousands of civilian casualties and a million refugees with fierce fighting during the 1998-1999 Kosovo War. Prizren's urban area did not sustain much damage, though Serbian forces destroyed the Albanian League of Prizren complex. Surrounding villages suffered many civilian losses and material damage, and many residents fled across the border to Albania, Macedonia and Turkey. NATO's 73-day bombing campaign against Serbia lead to a peace deal agreeing on the withdrawal of all Serbian forces from Kosovo, the return of all refugees, and an international peacekeeping security presence of NATO troops, with Kosovo under UN administration.

2004 Unrest throughout Kosovo on 17-18 March caused damage to Orthodox monuments and Prizren's Nënkalaja/Podkalaja neighbourhood. In 2005, the Reconstruction and Implementation Commission (RIC) initiated and implemented damage assessment projects and reconstruction work for these damaged monuments.

2008 On February 17 Kosovo's parliament declared independence. In June, Kosovo's new constitution entered into force, granting specific rights to Kosovo's minority groups.

2009 The Municipality of Prizren adopted the landmark *Conservation and Development Plan for the Historic Zone of Prizren*, the first concrete step towards the planning and protection of the Prizren's historical centre, and the very first of its kind in Kosovo.

2010 In June, Kosovo's first Balkan presidential summit took place near Prizren in Prevalla, as the leaders of Kosovo, Albania, Montenegro and Macedonia discussed closer cooperation. In July the International Court of Justice, responding to Serbia's request, gave its advisory opinion that Kosovo's independence did not violate international law. Looking forward, Prizren is to open Kosovo's second public university in October. 2010 has been declared the Year of Mother Teresa and is marked with many activities in Kosovo; the year will be closed with the inauguration of the new Mother Teresa Museum House in Prizren.

Filigrani is an ancient craft that uses fine, mostly silver and gold thread to produce astonishingly intricate and beautiful, lace-like works of art.



Filigran ring

Known to the vast majority of native English speakers as Filigree, known as filigrani in Kosovo, is an ancient craft that uses fine, mostly silver and gold thread to produce astonishingly intricate and beautiful, lace-like works of art, painstakingly assembled with thousands of tiny

soldered joints. Filigrani's origins are believed to date back to the ancient Egyptians, with the art being perfected later by the Etruscans and ancient Greeks. Historical records suggest that filigrani arrived in Kosovo at some time during the 15th century, and it's been produced in the region ever since. Today there are an estimated 200 small-scale family businesses producing filigrani in and around Prizren, surviving almost entirely on local trade through sales in specialist shops, and handing the expertise and traditions down from generation to generation. Among the largest and well known of these artisans is a group of 10 producers working together in a small workshop in the northwest part of Prizren. Simply called Filigrani, the company was originally founded in 1947 by the Yugoslav state together with local craftsmen, and it survived many hardships before being forced to close after the privatisation process that came after the war in 1999. The group of ten now work out of the

original building, producing some truly exquisite bespoke work using traditional methods for clients both at home and abroad. Their small workshop can be visited by anyone with a genuine artistic or commercial interest, and is well worth the trip. The workshop also includes a shop where several examples of the work produced can be bought.

Filigrani Filigrani, I-4, Rr. Tirana 3, tel. +377 44 13 95 39, filigranpz@gmail.com. Open 08.00-15.00, Sat, Sun closed.



Artisans at work

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Prishtina Insight

Prizren, as Kosovo's proud cultural capital, is brimming with activities in summer. If you're up for a party, the best time to visit is during the Dokufest film festival, when the city centre is filled with crowds enjoying the film screenings and outdoor performances.

Cinema

Kino Lumbardhi D-3, Rr. Remzi Ademi. The Lumbardhi is Prizren's only permanent cinema and can be found by the stone bridge. Once the first outdoor cinema in the Balkans, it is now only used for the Dokufest film festival, with the amphitheatre also hosting concerts during the *Zambaku i Prizrenit* citizen song festival.

Venues

Cultural Centre (Shtëpia e Kulturës) D-3, Rr. Saracëve, tel. +381 29 22 30 33. The Professional Theater of Prizren (*Teatri Profesional i Prizrenit*) is used for a variety of events, ranging from Albanian/Turkish/Bosnian/Roma-language plays, cultural manifestations, music concerts, Dokufest film screenings and other festivals. The building also houses the Regional Public Library (*Biblioteka Regionale e Prizrenit*), with books in several languages and an American Corner; access and lending is for members only.

Gazi Mehmet Pasha Hamam D-3, Rr. Adem Jashari, tel. +377 44 62 45 58. The glorious tumblown interior of Prizren's 16th-century Turkish bathhouse plays host to the occasional exhibition and concert. To enquire about guided tours, ask an Albanian-speaker to call the listed phone number.

Music High School (Shkolla e Mesme e Muzikës Lorenc Antoni) D-4, Rr. Marin Barleti, tel. +381 29 22 24 42. One of Kosovo's oldest music schools (also a high school and offering ballet classes) organises various concerts and ballet performances throughout the year.



A fortress cannon overlooks Prizren

Festivals & Events

Prizren and surrounding communities liven up in summer when a wide variety of festivals and other events take place - the Dokufest short film festival and the *Hasi Jehon* folklore festival being the best-visited. When in town, look out for performances by the *Agimi Ensemble* (tel. +381 29 23 36 76), who perform traditional Prizren folk-dancing and chorus concerts of urban citizen and folkloric songs, and the *Dogru Yol Ensemble* who play Turkish music (tel. +381 29 22 33 37). Prizren's religious feasts, notably the *Bajram* festival (at the end of Ramadan) and Christmas, are mainly private affairs, though the Sufi orders have weekly and annual services that visitors can attend (see *Sights*).

Cultural Fair D-3, Rr. Adem Jashari (Gazi Mehmet Pasha Hamam), akeaa_pz@yahoo.com. In the month of Ramadan, the Cultural Fair is held daily after iftar (the evening meal) from about 20:15 to 24:00 in the courtyard of the Gazi Mehmet Pasha Hamam. Waiters in traditional garb bring cakes, sweets, Turkish coffee and local drinks like boza, stands sell traditional clothing, books and souvenirs, and oriental music is played. The special atmosphere of the fair in this ancient building makes it highly recommended. ▶ Admission free.

Dokufest



Photo by Tobias Strahl

Dokufest (International Documentary and Short Film Festival) www.dokufest.com. The Dokufest International Documentary and Short Film Festival takes place annually in the second week of August. With 6,000 local and international visitors it is the largest event of its kind in the region, and is ranked among the most attractive documentary festivals in the world. Films are screened in several sessions between 12:00 and 24:00, each with multiple films, in three open air cinemas as well as in three indoor halls. Besides the films, there are exhibitions and other film-related events though the absolute highlight of the festival is the party atmosphere that surrounds it. With crowds of young people attending, the city centre turns into a party mile, with concerts and streets full of happy people. Accommodation is available at the special DokuCamp camping for €1 per person per night; toilets and showers available. ▶ Admission €2 per session.



Gazi Mehmet Pasha's Mosque towers over the League museum

Ekspo-Arti ganisunduri@hotmail.com, www.xhennet-comics.blogspot.com. The international caricature festival takes place for ten days each autumn (in 2010 from 1-10 October) inside the beautiful Gazi Mehmet Hamam. Cartoon artists from across the world are invited to come and sketch about topical issues like corruption, global warming and poverty. For more details, contact Kosovo's association of comic artists, Xhennet Comics. ▶ Admission free.

Flutrat On 1 June, international children's day, Prizren Municipality's 'butterflies' festival aims to entertain the youngest Kosovars with music and song along the riverside. ▶ Admission free.

Hasi Jehon www.hasinet.piczo.com. Held annually since 1976, the Hasi Jehon ('echo of hasi') folklore festival is held annually over three evenings in early May in the village of Gjonaj, 15km north-west of Prizren. Some 20 cultural ensembles from across the country gather here in the Hasi region to perform music and dance; there are also exhibitions of traditional Hasi clothes and crafts, and naturally plenty of local food and drink. The open-air event is held on the "Hill of Reconciliation" (*Kodra e Pajtimit*) and attracts up to ten thousand visitors from Kosovo and abroad. Gjonaj is best reached by car or taxi. For photos of the festival see the Malësori association website. ▶ Admission free.

Old Timers Fest (Vintage Car Show) www.old-timerclubprizren.com. Lovers of vintage cars (known as 'old timers' here) from Kosovo and across the region gather annually for one weekend in late May on invitation of the Old Timer Club Prizren. With 25 members owning 32 cars, most of them 'recent classics' from the 1950s-1980s rather than classic old cars, this association aims to collect, preserve and raise awareness for classic vehicles. The annual show is held in the city centre, and you can expect to see all kinds of vehicles, from sleek Mercedes models to VW Beetles and Citroen 2CVs. ▶ Admission free.

Tour de Culture www.unhabitat-kosovo.org, www.chwbkosovo.org. The European Heritage Days, an international event held every September to give access to and promote Europe's architectural and environmental heritage. In 2010, Kosovo's annual Tour de Culture recreational cycling tour linked to this event and the European Mobility Week will start in Prizren. In a relaxed pace, participants cycle past various places and cultural heritage sites in Kosovo, aiming to promote the country's common cultural heritage as an asset for cultural tourism and reconciliation, while at the same time showing that cycling is a healthy way to get around. ▶ Participation free.

Ura e Artit International Art Festival barl@atta-ks.org. Celebrating cultural diversity in Kosovo, the week-long 'Bridge of the Arts' arts festival is held annually in September on the banks of the Lumbardhi. Artists set up their easels beside the river and draw and paint scenes from Prizren with curious locals looking on. ▶ Admission free.

Zambaku i Prizrenit Several old cities in the Balkans have a proud tradition of old 'citizen songs', traditional music that is distinct from 'rural' music in its more intricate composition, rhythms and different topics. Prizren celebrates its great musical legacy every June/July with the unique *Zambaku i Prizrenit* (Lily of Prizren) festival, held at the open air Lumbardhi cinema. Although the festival focuses on Albanian-language songs, some editions also have performances by other ethnic groups from Kosovo. At the festival it's not just old material that is performed - each year new artists add songs to Prizren's repertoire. ▶ Admission €3-5.

40 Bunar river tubing

40 Bunar Fest www.40bunarfest.com. Kosovo's craziest race is Prizren's 40 Bunar river tubing festival, held in the last weekend of May or the first of June. Named after the '40 springs' area further up the valley, competitors must get down the Lumbardhi river from near the Electrical Industry Museum to the Stone Bridge in the city centre as fast as possible, on an inflated tractor inner tyre. The low water levels, protruding rocks and freezing water make the race challenging. The festival aims to raise awareness of the importance of clean river water and environmental protection. The fun starts at noon on Saturday, when everyone joins in to help clean the river, after which there's a large party in the evening. Participants gather at the cafés by the river at 11:00 on Sunday and walk up to the starting point before racing back to town. The event is concluded with partying all Sunday long. Participants pay a €5 fee and get a helmet and tube on loan.



Photo by Tarik Han

City-centre lodging options in Prizren are very limited for a city with the status of 'Kosovo's cultural capital' – so much so that most visitors to the annual Dokufest film festival need to camp or commute from Pristina. The opening of a new quality hotel in the centre brings the number of options to five. More luxurious hotels, often in natural beauty spots, can be found outside town. Room prices listed here include VAT and breakfast and were correct in August 2010.

City centre

Alvida A-3, Rr. Ibrahim Lutfiu 48, tel. +377 44 21 11 67/+377 44 30 09 44. If the Residence and Oltas Pension are full, your best bet is this simple hotel west of the centre. The rooms are acceptable but have dodgy bathrooms, and are situated above a dining hall that occasionally hosts wedding parties at weekends. Find Alvida just down the road from the Residence hotel - walk past the city prison and turn right at the modern complex of high-rise buildings. ▶ 7 rooms (singles €15, doubles €30, triples €45, quads €60, Five-bedded room €75). ☎ WiFi

Centrum C-4, Rr. Bujtinat, tel. +377 44 15 33 45, gjona-jalbert@hotmail.com, www.centrumprizren.com. Prizren's best hotel was opened just in time for the 2010 Dokufest crowds. Designed in traditional style, it has modern rooms with balconies and en suite bathrooms, and lovely apartments equipped with kitchens and living rooms. Right in the city centre and excellent value for money. ▶ 20 rooms (singles €35, 17 doubles €50, 3 apartments €65). ☎ P HI WiFi

Oltas Pension C-4, Rr. Bujtinat 14, tel. +377 44 11 32 52/+377 44 48 37 02, oltas_pension@hotmail.com. Smack bang in the middle of the city on a quiet residential street, Oltas is all creaking floorboards, mismatched furniture and identikit breakfasts. The friendly staff speaks not one word of English (which won't be a problem if you speak German) and find it amusing to fix the shower hook to the wall slightly further away than the shower hose can reach. For the money it would however be unfair to complain, especially as they throw free wireless internet into the bargain. The breakfast is like a scene from Groundhog Day. Good news if you like bread, cheese triangles, boiled eggs and bananas. Marvelous. ▶ 7 rooms (3 singles €25, 4 doubles €35). ☎ WiFi



Gazi Mehmet Pasha's Hamam

Symbol key

Air conditioning	Credit cards accepted
Conference facilities	Guarded parking
Non-smoking rooms	Restaurant
Swimming pool	Wi-Fi

Residence A/B-3, Rr. Remzi Ademi 117, tel. +377 44 25 57 74, residence_pz@hotmail.com.

The best hotel in town is in a modern three-storey house along the road from the bus station into town. The perfectly decent rooms are equipped with minibars, cable TV, wifi and spotless en suite bathrooms. Note that the hotel lacks an elevator. As it's the only classy place in town, be sure to book in advance. ▶ 7 rooms (3 singles €25, 4 doubles €35). ☎ WiFi HI WiFi

Tirana D-3, Rr. Adam Jashari 14, tel. +381 29 23 08 18/+377 44 21 61 55, tirana_hotelpz@yahoo.com.

Part of a misguided 1960s city improvement effort, this nondescript concrete blob represents the very worst of Yugo-era concrete architecture. Converted from an office building just 10 years ago, the hotel has crummy, stale rooms and old creaky beds. No breakfast either, comrades. For the desperate. ▶ 13 rooms (5 singles €30, 5 doubles €30, 2 triples €45, 1 apartments €75). ☎ HI

Around town

Estrada Prizren-Pristina road, km7, tel. +377 44 20 88 48/+386 49 50 15 00, info@hotelestrada.net, www.hotel-estrada.net. At the foot of Podgor Mountain, the bling Estrada hotel is Kosovo-style luxury, with gleaming marble floors, a wood-paneled dining room, and some daring colour combinations in the rooms. The rooms, all different and with private balcony, are spacious and quite sparsely furnished, but feature Jacuzzis with (a first for *In Your Pocket* city guides) screens attached to them for sud-soaked TV viewing. ▶ 14 rooms (12 doubles €22,50, 2 apartments €50). ☎ HI WiFi P HI WiFi

Mena Rr. e Nashecit, tel. +377 44 39 21 21. Located in a somewhat greyish factory district in the northwest of the city, the slightly kitsch Mena comes complete with a gurgling fountain and large television in reception, clean en suite rooms with air conditioning, cable television and wireless internet and a restaurant open for breakfast only. There are however a few restaurants in the immediate area, and a taxi into the centre only costs €1.50. ▶ 11 rooms (1 singles €40, 10 doubles €40).

Residence Vërmica Vlashiqe, tel. +377 44 67 06 94, residence_pz@hotmail.com. The new sister hotel of the city-centre Residence hotel is an imposing modernist pile. At the time of visiting, it was still under construction, but its rooms are expected to open from December 2010. The in-house restaurant is however already open for business. Five kilometres along the main Prizren-Kukës road, near Lake Vërmica.

OK Prizren-Pristina road, km3, tel. +381 29 24 02 60/+386 49 22 34 00, info@hotelok-ks.net, www.hotelok-ks.net. Fronted by a pond with fountain, the light and modern 'superluksoze' OK hotel is the plusher place to stay near town, and the only place for miles with an indoor swimming pool, and a ping-pong table too. Rooms come with bright yellow, purple and blue walls, balconies and DVD players, and some have great views of the Sharri mountains. ▶ 24 rooms (4 singles €35, 16 doubles €40, 4 apartments €60-80). ☎ HI WiFi P HI WiFi

While Pristina may offer much more culinary variety, Prizren has the looks, and many restaurants offer great views of medieval buildings and bustling car-free streets. The local restaurant scene is still rather modest, and though it's easy to find a good meal, the choice is basically local food or pizza. But who needs sushi or burritos when you have excellent Balkan dishes readily available? It's possible to have three Balkan meals in one day that are all completely different, and delicious. What's more, prices are modest with main courses priced between €2-5, going up to €8 at the posher places. More upmarket dining is found easily reached outside of Prizren, along Lake Vërmica and in the Sharr Mountains - see the *What to see* chapter for reviews. Note that table reservations are normally not necessary.

Symbol key

Air conditioning	Credit cards accepted
Live music	Take away
Guarded parking	Wi-Fi
Outside seating	Fireplace

Fast food

Bea's D-3, Sheshi Shadërvan. Kosovar fast food: Prizren-style hamburgers and pizza slices. Hungry? Try the platter for one. Also on Rruga Vratat Shqiptare. ▶ Open 08:00 - 01:00. ☎

M-Burger D-3, Rr. Vratat Shqiptare, tel. +371 44 36 29

95. Prizren's classiest fast-food joint has upmarket decoration and cheap, good burgers, even with a choice of white or brown bread. Try the *Banjalucki*, a burger with special Bosnian bread and meat, or the *Taraker*, made with minced veal and salad. Delivery to your hotel, office or the cafe you may be sitting in all possible. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00. ☎

International

Ambient E-3, Rr. Vratat Shqiptare, tel. +381 29 22

22 55/+377 44 85 98 87/+386 49 42 00 49 . On the hillside between the fortress hill and the river, Ambient may be Prizren's most upmarket venue, it's still eminently affordable for foreigners. Reached by a steep set of road lined by tables for two, enter via the ground-floor café and climb up the stairs to the large main dining room. Pizza, pasta, meat and fish dishes are served together with good local wines in a rather refined atmosphere. Book ahead if you're set on eating here - a group may otherwise beat you to it. English and German are spoken. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00. ☎ ☎

Arasta D-3, Sheshi Shadërvan, tel. +381 29 22 22 55.

An modest building with an unassuming exterior hides a most wonderful place. Named after the old district around the bridge, it overlooks the river, and the corner-shaped room is decked out with wooden beams, copper lamps and paintings of old Prizren. In winter, traditional tangars (large copper dishes filled with coal), are used to keep the clientele cosy. But the food is the best thing about Arasta. Good salads and pizza, and ten varieties of steak. ▶ Open 07:00 - 24:00. ☎ ☎

Ego D-3, Sheshi Shadërvan, tel. +377 44 14 03 09. A new, modern multi-storey venue with a café on the ground floor, a restaurant serving good pizza, steak and pasta on the first floor, and on the top floor a place for smoking hookah pipes. ▶ Open 09:00 - 24:00.

Holiday D-3, Sheshi Shadërvan, tel. +377 44 80 77 77. It's always holiday at this slightly more upmarket local restaurant. There's a range of traditional and international dishes that won't disappoint. ▶ Open 07:00 - 24:00. ☎ ☎

Kosovar

Alhambra C-3, Rr. Shuaip Spahiu, tel. +377 44 14 76

04. A firm favourite of families and older Prizrenites, who know it as Te Syla, this classic Balkan riverside restaurant/snackar serves up cheap and excellent local food. Order qytfe (meatballs, the famed house speciality), kebab, pleskavice; or steak, or go for coffee with a sweet slice of cake. ▶ Open 08:00 - 23:00.

Prizren specialities



Pitajka me vo

Prizren's traditional food is characterised by its great taste and rich use of spices and oil. The famous sweets sold at the *ëmblëtoret* (confectioneries) are often made using age-old family recipes. Here's a short list of local delicacies; entries marked with a star are especially worth trying when you're in town as they are local specialties, or are Kosovar/Balkan specialities with specific ingredients or taste in Prizren.

Boza a sweet-sour traditional drink made from corn flour

Fli a multi-layered savoury pie

Gjize me specia a starter of creamy cheese baked with peppers in a pot (served at Arasta and Villa Park)

Kifle bread with eggs and cheese, marmalade or choc spread

Lokum doughnuts

Pogaqa corn flour rolls

Pitajka me vo* bread with creamy xhiza cheese and eggs in the middle, baked in a wood oven, a Ramadan specialty

Pleskavice or pjeskavica a large hamburger

Qebap* kebab

Qytfe or kofte* grilled, spiced mince sausages, also something of a Prizren speciality

Sharr goats cheese* Made from goats milk originating from the Sharri Mountains, and flavoured with herbs

Tava a stew of meat and cheese in a ceramic pot (served at Villa Park if ordered in advance)

Topili a kind of bread prepared with creamy xhiza cheese

Turshi a winter salad composed of vegetables in salty water

Sweets & Bakeries

Prizren and the surrounding region are famous for the extraordinary range of different **breads** produced, most of them coming from small companies and baked in traditional manner. All bread is made from white flour and is usually leavened.

Prizrenites are real sweet lovers, and are rightly proud of the excellent **confectionery** made locally. If you're peckish between meals, there's a number of sweet local delicacies you can try. *Baklava* is the famous pan-Balkan dense filo pastry with nuts and sugar water; *tullumba* is a dense filo pastry with sugar water; an *ekler* is a cake filled with vanilla cream, and *revani* is a traditional type of 'wet' cake with sugar water.

Ëmbëltorja e qytetit E-3, Sheshi i Lidhjes Shqiptare të Prizrenit. Besides excellent sticky pastries and coffee, the 'city confectionery' by the Albanian League complex has great views of the fortress, Nënkalaja district and the old town. ► Open 08:00 - 24:00.

Aurora D-3, Rr. Remzi Ademi. A buzzing bakery and café right opposite the Theranda hotel, serving wonderful cakes, bread and snacks like *byrek*, doner kebab and pizza till late, late at night. ► Open 06:00 - 03:00. ☎

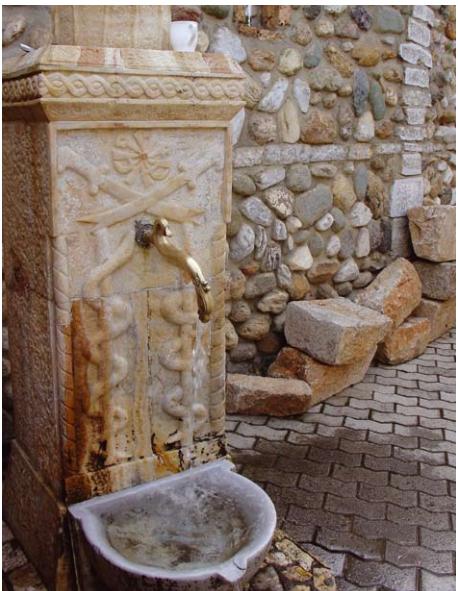
Bananasplit Plus D-3, Sheshi Shadërvan. Snack your heart out on great ice cream or filling, gooey baklava at this central café. Fresh kifle are served for breakfast, until 11:00. Watch the street action from ground level, or join the young couples by retreating upstairs. ► Open 08:00 - 24:00. ☎

Evropa D-3, Sheshi Shadërvan. Opposite the Sinan Pasha Mosque at the hub of the city, Evropa is a classic family-run European café with fresh coffee, tasty cakes and home made sweets. ► Open 08:00 - 24:00.

Extra D-3, Rr. Adem Jashari 18. The small confectionery opposite the Gazi Mehmet Pasha Hamam is the place to drop by for traditional sweets and *boza*, a delicious sweet-sour local drink made of corn flour. In the best of Prizren traditions, the shop and the secret *boza* recipe have been handed down from father to son for generations. ► Open 08:00 - 22:00. Closed Sun.

Furra Lombardhi C-3, Rr. Faik Emrush. The highly recommended Furra Lombardhi bakes its delicious bread in a wood-fired oven. A local bread called *topli* is widely available around the city and highly recommended. The sublime *pitajka me vo*, a veritable meal of a bread made with a mixture of egg and cheese in the middle, is specially prepared around town during Ramadan.

Shëndeti D-4, Sheshi Shadërvan. Run by a Bosnian family, the small Shëndeti confectionery serves home-made traditional drinks like *boza* as well as baklava and *ekler* sweets. In summer, munch on your snack in the small courtyard with nice views of the Orthodox Church of Saint George. ► Open 08:00 - 24:00. ☎



Inside the Saracane Tekke courtyard

Beska D-3, Sheshi Shadërvan. Grilled meat, meatballs, *fili* and other local dishes served in a traditional restaurant with a large terrace overlooking the square, and a smaller one in the garden at the back. ► Open 07:00 - 24:00. ☎

Mullini i Pintollit E-2, Sheshi i Lidhjes Shqiptare të Prizrenit, tel. +377 44 12 71 97. A charmingly reconstructed watermill in the Marash district is now a relaxed café and part-time restaurant. Drinks are available year-round, but food including grilled meat dishes, pizza and local speciality *fili* is served from May to September only. No alcohol is served. ► Open 08:00 - 22:00. ☎

Sarajevo Rr. Remzi Ademi, tel. +377 45 65 71 71. One of Prizren's oldest and most popular *qeabtore* has a range of tasty meat dishes: kebab, qofte, pleskavica, accompanied with fresh salads and non-alcoholic drinks. ► Open 08:00 - 21:00. Closed Sun.



Cobblestones and cafés

Prizren has a lovely set of **cafés** on the northern river bank that are open from morning until midnight that function as the foremost meeting place for young locals. These cafés are pleasant for coffee with views of the river by day, and transform into bars after dark and stay lively until closing time around or just after midnight. When the chairs run out, people just stand blocking the street so you'll always literally bump into acquaintances after a few days in town. The **nightlife** scene can mainly be found in a warren of small streets and courtyards just west of Sheshi Shadërvan square. Curiously, the crowd is known to move en masse when there's a concert in the bar area, all swarming back to pole position when it ends. Nightlife generally starts early and generally ends early too, so make the most of it. Note however that getting sloshed is not a way to impress the locals, who usually drink with moderation.

Cafés

Barcode E-3, Rr. Vratat Shqiptare. The first in a row of riverside café-bars popular throughout the year but especially so during the warmer part of the year when the outdoor terrace opens and many of the city's young population gather here. The music inside is upbeat and the choice of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks is admirable. ► Open 09:00 - 01:00 (winter 09:00 - 24:00). ☎

Café Haus D-3, Sheshi Shadërvan. With small tables spread over two floors, this large, buzzing café is a popular meeting place for locals, especially in the morning and afternoon. The café serves cakes and a few special snacks worth trying, namely *kifte* (bread with eggs and cheese, marmalade or choc spread), *pogaqë* (corn flour rolls) and *lokum* (doughnuts). Get them in the morning while they're fresh. ► Open 08:00 - 24:00. ☎

Change D/E-3, Sheshi Dëshmorët. Overlooking a square that was recently a car park, this new bar serves drinks including fruity cocktails. ► Open 07:00 - 24:00. ☎

Kafiq D/E-3, Sheshi Dëshmorët. On the newly renovated square behind the Aurora bakery, Kafiq is a modern café that's good for quiet daytime drinks. ► Open 09:00 - 24:00. ☎

Lucky Cup E-3, Rr. Vratat Shqiptare. Another addition to the little collection of simple but enjoyable city-centre bars and cafés vying for attention by the riverside. An excellent outdoor choice if you can find a table among the summer throngs. ► Open 09:00 - 01:00 (winter 09:00 - 24:00). ☎

Mullini Café E/F-2, Sheshi i Lidhjes Shqiptare të Prizrenit, tel. +377 44 69 16 27. A summertime café, usually open during Dokufest for special parties, with a large terrace set beside the old millstream, and a simple interior with some antiques scattered about. Food, served between May and late August, includes steak and local trout. ► Open 09:00 - 24:00. ☎

Picaso C-3, Rr. Sahat Kulla, tel. +377 44 56 81 11. A rather nondescript café in a quiet back street selling a limited range of herb teas, coffee and soft drinks, this place stands out as possessing a quality table tennis table which can be rented for buttons. ► Open 08:00 - 24:00.

Quattro E-3, Rr. Vratat Shqiptare. As well as functioning as a decent café-bar with good summer outdoor waterside seating, Quattro's propensity to keep its doors open long into the night makes it a popular choice among hungry visitors who gather to gorge on their fine choice of hot pizza. ► Open 09:00 - 03:00. ☎



The riverside cafés in autumn

Shadow E-3, Rr. Vratat Shqiptare. Some shadow is exactly what's needed after a few hours exploring Prizren in the summer heat, and this small café-bar provides plenty inside. There's also a small terrace outside next to the river for seating during the spring and summer. ► Open 09:00 - 01:00 (winter 09:00 - 24:00). ☎

X-Haus E-3, Rr. Vratat Shqiptare. A good range of drinks plus snacks and sandwiches in a compact café close to the water's edge. The aforementioned sandwiches come highly recommended. Decked out like a large living room, it has young people jostling for coffee in the afternoon. ► Open 09:00 - 01:00 (winter 09:00 - 24:00). ☎

Bars

Bar 2000 C/D-3, Rr. Pushkataret (courtyard), tel. +386 49 30 00 36. It may be a little passé to have anything still named after the new millennium, but nobody at this large bar seems to mind, focused as they are on the music, the drinks and each other. Crammed on summer and weekend nights, it can be deserted other days. ►

M-Pub C/D-3, Rr. Pushkataret (courtyard). Drink your way across the Balkans without setting foot outside the door of this charming beer-lovers pub. It stocks over 40 types of beer, including many regional brands from countries like Albania, Slovenia, Croatia and Montenegro. For those who like something stronger there's Guinness, and a decent selection of cocktails. ► Open 09:00 - 24:00. ☎

Scobar C/D-3, Rr. Pushkataret (courtyard), tel. +386 49 30 00 36. Prizren's oddest bar is what you get when you tell an Irish pub to go West. A big teepee-shaped affair with photos of cowboys and American Indians on the walls, it's apparently named after the much-admired Columbian drug baron Escobar. There's a raised section with tables, and a stage for the regular concerts held here. ► Open 18:00 - 03:00. Closed Tue, Thu. ☎

Tabu Jazz D-3, Rr. Nuri Sherifi. Prizren's newest bar shows that the city is diversifying fast - Tabu aims at the jazz-loving crowd, and though there's no live music, the owners' impressive music collection will satisfy any jazz craving. ► Open 09:00 - 01:00. ☎

Prizren's delightful city centre is the best-preserved and most picturesque in Kosovo, with a good collection of religious and profane buildings and quaint residential quarters, all within close range of each other. A brisk walk uphill will take you to the fortress overlooking town. The city's long tradition of religious and ethnic tolerance is apparent in the close proximity of Catholic and Orthodox churches, mosques and tekkes, many of them hundreds of years old. It's still difficult to visit the Orthodox churches and monasteries, but we've indicated what's currently possible. A full day will allow you to see many of the sights reviewed here, though it's recommended to call ahead to check opening times if you're set on visiting a particular museum.

Prizren Fortress

Prizren Fortress (Kalaja) E-3. Strategically dominating the town, the deep Lumbardhi valley and the Dukagjini plains, the ancient fortress has been a place for defence and refuge since prehistoric times. On top of the 500-metre high Cvilen hill immediately southeast of the centre, the fortress was significantly expanded and strengthened in Byzantine and Ottoman times and was still exclusively used as a fortress until 1912. It fell in disrepair since, with no remaining structures and deteriorating walls that are currently being consolidated. A €2 million EU grant will pay for more reconstruction works in coming years. Walking up the steep path from the old town past the mainly abandoned Nën Kalaja (Pod Kalaja) district to the ruined fortress will take about 15 minutes and gets you the best views of the city centre, especially in the morning when the sun is behind you, and at sunset. A gravel path leads from the highest point of the fortress to the Lumbardhi valley, from where you can walk to the Marash district. Just to the east, the small Kalaja e Cuces (Kiz Kalasi) or 'Girl's Fortress' is also ancient, and currently home to a KFOR base. ▶ Open 24hrs. Admission free.

Mosques

Prizren has no less than 30 mosques, about one per city district, many of them from the Ottoman period. The city skyline - best viewed from the fortress - is dominated by their minarets. Built by local craftsmen using local decorative elements, but greatly influenced by Ottoman culture, these graceful buildings were designed with soaring interior spaces that formed a unity with the dome, porch and minaret on the exterior. They were neglected for many years, but recent restoration projects, often funded and coordinated by Turkey, have seen several buildings restored. Visitors are very welcome to visit, though many mosques are frequently locked up outside prayer times. Time your visit from 12:00 to 13:00 and from 14:00 to 18:00, or a little while after the call for prayer when people leave the mosque. Photography is not a problem, though you need be modestly dressed and take your shoes off to enter.

Arasta Minaret (Xhamia e Evrenos Beut, Arasta) D-3, Rr. Adem Jashari. Sadly, only a lone minaret marks the spot where once a mosque complex of nearly 300 square metres stood. The complex, named Arasta and dating back to 1594, held the mosque and crafts shops spreading to and even on top of the bridge across the river. In 1960, progressive planners decided to do away with it all so they could construct a grand new town centre that's fit for Socialist Man. The minaret which was left standing as a reminder of Arasta was renovated in 2007, and there are new plans to do away with the kiosks surrounding it to better emphasise the lost heritage.

Emin Pasha's Mosque (Xhamia e Emin Pashës)

D-3, Rr. Rifat Krasniqi. A remarkable late-Ottoman mosque, located opposite the hamam, built by the famous Rrotulli brothers in 1831. Architecturally valuable and decorated with arabesques, it's in dire need of restoration.

Gazi Mehmet Pasha's Mosque (Bajrakli Xhamia)

E-2/3, Rr. Mehmet Pasha. A large and elegant building with many windows, this mosque from 1561 lies directly behind the Albanian League Museum and forms a fantastic Ottoman-era ensemble together with the museum, a handful of period buildings across the street and the nearby hamam, which also belongs to this mosque. The calm gardens have benches and overlook the complex with a hexagonal mausoleum that was built for the founder and two schools. Inside, under the spacious dome are a marble mihrab and mimbar.

Kërék Mosque (Kërék Xhamia, Namazxhah) A-1, Rr. De Rada. Prizren's first Muslim prayer place, in the park directly opposite the bus station, was built during the invasion of Prizren in 1455 and was meant as a place of prayer for the Ottoman Army. Also known under its Turkish name, *Namazxhah*, the simple roofless structure consists of a raised stone floor and a minaret without stairs. Falling into disrepair and surrounded by new buildings up to the 1960s, it was reconstructed in 1999 by the Institution for the Protection of Monuments with donations from Turkish institutions.

Kukli Bej Mosque (Xhamia e Saracëve) D-3, Rr. Saracëve. Near Gazi Mehmet Pasha's hamam and the Halveti Tekke, Kukli Bej or Saraciane Mosque dates from 1534 and is unusual for having just one dome, covered with stone slabs. It's part of the compound that also houses the Halveti Tekke, and the dervishes interestingly use this mosque for prayers as well. There's not much to see in the whitewashed interior.

Myderiz Ali Efendi Mosque (Xhamia e Myderriz Ali Efendisë) C-4, Rr. Papa Gjon Palli. With a location testifying to Prizren's long history of religious and ethnic tolerance, this small mosque from 1581 lies directly opposite the Catholic church. Hemmed in by a triangle of streets, the walls, dome and halls are covered by clay tiles and the interior features a mimbar and mahvil. The mausoleum of Ali Efendi is placed in the compound too.

Mosque basics

Like churches, mosque design around the world adheres to certain rules. There's usually a dome on the building, a slender minaret tower beside it for the call to prayer (*ezan*) five times per day, and a porch where the faithful can take off their shoes. A washing area is provided for ablutions before prayers. The building is always set so that the *mihrab* (veneration niche) is pointing to the holy city of Mecca, with to the right of it a *mimber* (pulpit), often consisting of a steep staircase with a pointy tower on top. Larger mosques are often part of a walled complex with a garden, graves, sometimes a *tyrbe* (mausoleum) and *dershana* (library), and a *madrasa* and *maktab* (religious primary and secondary schools). Subtle painted and ceramic decorations are common, though these never portray people or animals and usually focus on floral or geometric patterns, ornaments and *arabeska* (Arabic calligraphy).



The mosque and Pintollı Mill in the Marash district

Sinan Pasha Mosque (Xhamia e sofi Sinan Pashës)

D-3, Sheshi Shadervan. Prizren's most prominent mosque, towering over Shadervan square from a raised level, is from 1615. Lovers of Ottoman architecture admire it for its strength, compactness, gracefulness and elegance, and know that the type of architecture represents a rarity in Islamic art. The mosque is delicately decorated with geometrical designs, still life paintings and curtains. A lengthy restoration project that ended in 2010 saw the building completely renovated. It was believed that the stones used to build the mosque originated from the Holy Archangels' Monastery, and in 1919 Serbian authorities started to dismantle the mosque in order to rebuild the monastery. The porch stones were removed, with the columns thrown in the river, but mass protests stopped the demolition, and the porch was finally rebuilt in 2009.

Suzi Celebi Mosque (Xhamia e Suzi Çelebisë, Sozi Xhamia) B-3, Rr. Rasat e Kosharës. The first proper mosque building in Prizren was constructed in 1513 by Suzi Celebi, a well-known Prizren poet who wrote popular books about the various Ottoman military campaigns he joined. Celebi lies buried in the mausoleum beside the mosque, together with his brother. The elegant roof and porch reveal an interior with wood carvings featuring a rose decorating the ceiling. The gardens also have a half-ruined old library building.

Churches

Prizren has several wonderful medieval churches, as well as a handful of more modern ones. All of the Orthodox Christian churches and chapels are now guarded by the Kosovo Police, some closed and surrounded by barbed wire, others with officers on constant guard. Apart from the Episcopal Church of St George which is usually open, most Orthodox churches are locked up. Those keen on viewing the interiors are advised to contact the Institution for Protection of Monuments (IPM) in advance to enquire about the possibility of entering these buildings.

Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour (Katedralja e Zonjës Ndihmëtare)

Rr. Papa Gjon Palli. Prizren's main Catholic church from 1870 is a fairly typical Italian-inspired buildings with three naves and marble-clad columns. The facade is remarkable for the variety of stone used, while the interior frescoes above the door depict the medieval Christian Albanian hero Skënderbeu (Skenderbeg) who unified Albanians and kept the Ottomans at bay, against all odds. Depicted beside him is the great Transylvanian

Ottoman-slayer, János Hunyadi or Iancu de Hunedoara, who did Christianity a great favour by defeating Mehmed II's army at Belgrade in 1456. Mass, in Albanian, is held at 18:00 on weekdays and until noon on Sundays, with some singing in Italian and Latin. ▶ Open 09:00 - 16:00, Sun 12:00 - 16:00.

Cathedral Church of Christ the Saviour (Kisha e Shën Shpëtimtarit, Crkva Svetog Spasa)

E-4, Rr. Kalaja. Halfway up the hill to the fortress, this church dates from King Stefan Dušan's rule, around 1330. The complex consists of two parts, a small 14th century church with medieval frescoes and a larger extension with a belfry that was started in 1836 but was never finished. From the mid-1800s the church was in use by Prizren's Vlach community, an originally nomadic group that roamed the Balkans as shepherds.

Church of Our Lady of Ljeviš (Shën Premte, Crkva Bogodorice Ljeviške, Cuma Camili)

C-3, Rr. Sahat Kulla. Just west of the city centre, Prizren's oldest and most spectacular Byzantine church - a UNESCO World Heritage Site - dates back to the 9th-11th centuries. The Byzantine cathedral built on this spot, first mentioned in a charter by Emperor Basil II in 1018, was remodelled and expanded in 1307 by King Milutin of Serbia, but this location has an even more complex history, as this predecessor was also built on the remains of an early Christian basilica. With a unique architectural design of alternating layers of brick and limestone, the present-day structure is one of the best surviving examples of late Byzantine architecture anywhere in Europe. Inside, the wall frescoes are of high quality and depict scenes such as the Wedding at Canaa, the Healing of the Blind, and the Most Holy Mother of God with Christ the Guardian. The church was converted into a mosque by the Ottomans, who placed a minaret on top of the tower, but when the Ottomans departed in 1912 this was reversed, with the minaret being removed in 1923.

Interestingly, Turkish-speaking Prizrenites still refer to the building as *Cuma Camii*, or 'Friday Mosque'. Research and restoration works were carried out as late as the 1950s. The church was closed after 1999, and after fire damaged the interior in 2004, Italian experts have confirmed that the majority of the famed frescoes can be restored, though work yet has to start. The graceful brick exterior and the location opposite the Archaeological museum make it well worth a visit for the exterior alone.



Unesco Heritage: Our Lady of Ljeviš

The Runner of Prizren



The earliest and most famous archaeological find in Prizren is the Runner of Prizren (Vrapuesja e Prizrenit), a bronze figure of a running girl, which may have been attached to a vessel or a utensil. According to specialists at the British Museum it was possibly crafted in Sparta around 500BC. It may have reached Prizren

as a precious gift or as loot, and used as a grave offering before it was discovered in the 19th century. A dealer took it to London and sold it to the British Museum in 1876, where it remains till now.

Church of St Nicholas (Kisha e Shën Nikollës, Crkva Svetog Nikole) C-4. Also known as Tutic's Church, this is a typical feudal family church with wonderful architecture and good fragments of frescoes executed by the same artists who did the frescoes in the St. Savior. A preserved stone inscription reports that it was built in 1331 by local landowner Dragoslav Totic (later as a monk called Nicholas) and his wife Bela. Beyond, the grand Episcopal-Metropolitan Residence which was reconstructed in 2008, is the official residence for the bishop of the Prizren Diocese, founded in 1018.

Episcopal Church of St George (Kisha e Shën Gjergjit, Crkva Svetog Dorda) D-4, Sheshi Shadërvan. A prominent monument in the city centre, the large Episcopal Church from 1887 is situated on the site of an earlier church. The interior was originally richly decorated with ashlar stones, polished onyx, marble panes, frescoes, icons gathered here from various churches, and a wooden iconostasis. Restoration by a multi-ethnic team of craftsmen was recently finished, and work on the white marble interior was completed in early 2010. Casual visitors are welcome to have a look inside after asking permission from the police stationed outside. Right beside the Episcopal Church stands the small Church of St George, or Runović's Church, from the 14th-16th century. This picturesque single-aisled chapel has a barrel vault and used to be richly decorated with 16th century frescoes.

Holy Archangel Monastery (Manastiri i kryengjëve, Manastir Svetog Arhangelës) Lumbardhi river valley. Just outside the city on the main road into the Sharri Mountains National Park is what at first glance appears to be a KFOR base. The Holy Archangel Monastery is a holy site of immense importance to the Serbian Orthodox Church. Built between 1343 and 1352 as a burial site for the Serbian emperor Stefan Uroš IV Dušan (circa 1308-1355) at his own command, the complex once contained a monastery and two small churches. In the 15th century, the site was abandoned and used as a quarry for Prizren's Sinan Pasha Mosque. The complex was damaged in 1999 and 2004 and all that remains now are a few buildings dating from the late part of the 20th century, where eight monks live under constant protection. In 1927, Stefan Dušan's remains were moved to Belgrade, and visiting the site is nearly impossible, and even photography is forbidden.

Tekkes

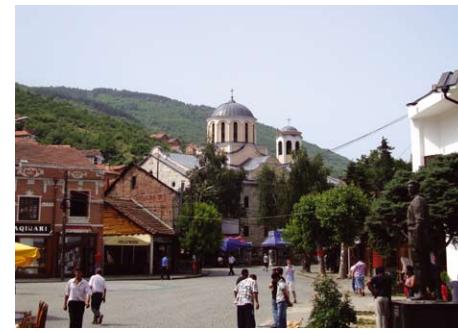
The Sufi mystic tradition, closely linked to Islam, was brought to Kosovo and Albania before and during the Ottoman period. Like Muslims, the believers (called *muhib*) also worship one god, but gather at prayer rooms called tekkes rather than at mosques, and use a very liberal interpretation that comes close to pantheism. This is considered blasphemous by some Muslims and sufism is therefore banned in several countries. Dervishes claim to communicate with the divine through a sheh, the spiritual leader of the community, and perform a specific ritual called *ziker*, meaning remembrance or invocation. During *ziker*, dervishes pray and sing *ilahi* songs, while some perform a spinning dance that brings them into a trance or state of ecstasy. *Ziker* represents both a solemn ritual and a spiritual state of mind or heart, in which the devotee seeks to realise the presence of God - thus there is *zikr* of the mind and *zikr* of the heart. The Sufi order religious leadership is family-based, with sons inherited the 'spiritual power' of the father. Various orders (*tariqats*) are represented in Kosovo, including the Halveti, Rufai, Kaderi, Sadi and Sinani orders. All are welcoming to visitors, and several tekkes in Prizren can be visited. The best time to do so is between 15:00 and 18:00 when the dervishes and perhaps the sheh are available for a chat. Like in mosques, shoes need to be removed before entering a tekke, though women are required to cover their heads during rituals only.

Kaderi the Kurila Tekke (Teqja Kaderi e Kurilës) F-1, Rr. Kurila, babashe17@hotmail.com. The Qadiriyyah Sufi order is one of the oldest and most widespread in the Islamic world, arriving in Prizren around 1500 when Horosanli Sheh Hasan Baba built this tekke north of the city centre. The *semahane* ceremony room holds the symbolic stones that were used by first sheh to determine the building's location, some ancient weapons, musical instruments and flags of various shehs with Arabic texts. The *semahane* is flanked by two smaller rooms, and two courtyards, one with an ancient fountain that's decorated with Arabic script. Visitors are welcome, and can watch the two-hour *ziker* ceremony accompanied by prayers and *ilahi* music every Friday at 17:00.

Rufa'i Tekke (Teqja e Rufaive) A-4, Rr. Kaçaniku 3, tel. +381 22 35 13, adri_tours@hotmail.com. One of the last orders to arrive in Kosovo, the Rufa'i Tekke can be found west of the city centre behind the Gjon Buzuku school. The first sheh, Rufaiyyah, arrived in the Balkans from Istanbul in the late 19th century, and the current leader is Sheh Adriusein Shehu. The interior walls are decorated with paintings of ancient weapons, blades, and musical instruments used during rituals. Visitors are welcome on Monday to Thursday; on Friday they hold their *ziker* ritual in private. The tekke is especially worth visiting on 22 March when the tekke celebrates *Sultân Nevruz*, an annual festival with traditional rituals that is named after the Persian *novruz*, or new day. That day, dervishes pierce themselves with needles during *ziker*, yet don't bleed.



The Albanian League of Prizren Museum



Shadërvan square with St. George's Church

Tourist information



Prizren has no official tourism information office yet, but visitors with questions are welcome to contact the municipality or the office of Cultural Heritage without Borders (in Pristina) for advice. Given advance warning, the IPM can assist with access to various monuments.

Cultural Heritage without Borders Rr. R. Zogovic 8, Pristina, tel. +381 38 24 39 18, kosovo@chwb.org, www.chwb.org/kosovo. ▶ Open 09:00 - 17:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Directorate for Economic Development and Tourism B-3, Rr. Remzi Ademi (town hall), tel. +381 29 63 28 43. The municipality's tourism department can help with general enquiries. ▶ Open 08:00 - 16:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Institution for the Protection of Monuments (IPM) D-4, Rr. Marin Barleti. On request, the IPM, right next to the Sinan Pasha Mosque, can arrange access to monuments that are otherwise closed. ▶ Open 08:00 - 16:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Museum first opened its doors in 1975. Now fully renovated in one of the loveliest interiors in Prizren, the museum holds over 800 items of archaeological interest from antiquity to the 19th century, discovered in Prizren, Dragash, Rahovec and Suhareka. A fascinating insight into the history of the region, the building also features a clock tower built towards the end of the 19th century with Baroque elements by Eshref Pasha. Originally the tower contained a chiming clock which was removed in 1912. The view from the city and surrounding mountains from the observation post (*babafinga*) at the top is well worth the struggle to get up there. Note that the museum has not been officially opened; call ahead to plan a visit. ▶ Open 08:00 - 16:00. Closed Sat, Sun. Admission €1.

Electrical Industry Museum (Muzeu i Hidroekomisë-Hidroelektërana Prizrenasë) Lumbardhi river valley. Close to the Holy Archangel Monastery, the Electrical Industry Museum provided Prizren's first electricity when it was built in 1929. The small hydro-electric plant worked for over half a century before being turned into a museum in 1979. Now in a state of disrepair, the museum can be visited by contacting the IPM. ▶ Open 08:00 - 16:00. Closed Sat, Sun. Admission free.



Prizren's Catholic cathedral

Citizen houses

Although you need to keep your eyes wide open to spot them, Prizren has a number of original two-storey 'citizen houses' (*shtëpi qytetare*) dating from the 18th and 19th centuries. Different from the stone-constructed *kulla* tower houses of western Kosovo, citizen houses are distinct in a number of ways, most notably in that they feature a ground floor made of stone and an upper level of clay. There are two types of citizen house, the first built onto the street with a courtyard at the back and the other set away from the street with the courtyard at the front. High walls surround the complexes, allowing the men to conduct business while family life took place in strictly segregated areas.

Prizren has many characteristic houses, including the Musa Shehzade House, Grazhdha House and Adem Aga Gjoni House, but we list the three most interesting houses here, all of which are found in varying states of repair and all still in daily use. Some are still owned by the same families that had them built hundreds of years ago. Privacy should be respected, although visitors with a genuine interest are encouraged to knock and speak to the owners. If they're not busy they might just let you in, a treat that really makes a visit to Prizren complete. Else, you could try asking the IPM or the Albanian League Museum for a formal tour.

Gani Dukagjini's House (Shtëpia e Familjes Dukagjini) E-2/3, Rr. Gani Çavdarbasha, tel. +377 44 19

14 27. Located along the river near the Albanian League of Prizren complex, the 19th century Gani Dukagjini's House is a fine example of classic citizen house architecture. Featuring some marvellous wooden carvings on the exterior, the house is set back from the street with a small courtyard at the front paved with cobblestones, which still contains the smallflowing water channel that was used for domestic purposes when the building was originally constructed. The house is also particularly notable for its fine, half-open porch.



The Mustafa house

Parks

City park (Parku i qytetit) H/I-5, Rr. Mehmet Hasi

A ten-minute walk west of the centre, the city park is a green oasis in a bend of the river Lumbardhi, with walking paths and modern sports fields.

Marashi Park (Parku Marashi) E-2, F-3, Rr. Enver Haradinaj

Bordering the Marash district just east of the city centre, this park lines the banks of the Lumbardhi river and offers walking and jogging paths leading up to the fortress, playgrounds and some cafés.

Mustafa (Pomaku) House (Shtëpia e familjes Mustafa (Pomaku) D-3, Rr. Saracët. This gorgeous example of a classic Prizren citizen house is concealed behind a large wooden gate and has been lovingly preserved by its owners. Opening the gate rings a bell that's connected to the house by a wire and reveals a building that's believed to date back as far as the 18th century. The house is set in a cobblestone courtyard with a series of stone columns that once made up an external architectural feature but that are now used purely for decorative purposes. A closed balcony (*dok sat*) has elements of the original design. The owner is very friendly and has been known to allow visitors inside. Those who do manage to see the interior will find extraordinarily well preserved rooms with classic wooden ceilings and original doors.

Sheh Hasan's House (Shtëpia e Sheh Hasanit) D-3, Rr. Farkatari

Found behind the Theranda hotel, Sheh Hasan's House is another classic example of 19th century citizen house architecture. Not in such good condition as some and now divided into separate dwelling spaces for a number of residents, the building contains many rich folkloric architectural elements including a wooden garret in the middle of the front facade, offering street views from behind elegant wooden pillars. Other characteristic elements include the wide roof and a fountain. Together with the adjacent Halveti Tekke and Sarachane Mosque, the house and immediate surroundings give a good indication of how the area once looked at its prime at the end of the 19th century.

Places of interest

City Hall (Komuna e Prizrenit) C-3, Rr. Remzi Ademi.

The wall of the otherwise unremarkable Yugoslav-era city hall, along the road between the bus station and the centre, has been turned into a greeting to the world, with thank-you messages spelled out in the languages of all 60+ nations that have officially recognised Kosovo as an independent state so far. The letters are stuck on a bit wonky and the spelling isn't always spot on, but the gesture is certainly sincere.

Gazi Mehmet Pasha Hamam (Hamami i Gazi-Mehmet Pashës) D-3, Rr. Adem Jashari, tel. +377 44 62 45 58.

According to most accounts, this glorious, early-Ottoman Turkish bathhouse was built at the behest of Gazi Mehmet Pasha, Sanjak Bey of Iskenderiye (Shkodra) in about 1575. Combining elements of both Oriental and local architectural styles, the building was made from rubble stones and hydraulic lime with plastered internal wall surfaces. Unusual for a hamam in the Prizren region, the building was designed to accommodate both men and women at the same time (ordinarily, the two sexes would bathe in the same hamam at different times), and the individual entrances, changing and bathing areas along with much of the original extraordinary design can still be seen. Although structurally sound, the interior is in a bit of a mess and the building is generally closed with the exception of times when it functions as a temporary art gallery and chamber music venue.



The old clock tower on the Archaeological Museum

Lumbardhi valley (Lugina e Lumbardhit) F-3.

Part of the city yet seemingly another world, the Lumbardhi valley is reached by following the path along the river upstream from Marash. Walking, jogging or cycling up the valley you'll soon be surrounded by forested hillsides, passing the field used for the Dokufest festival camp and a jogging route. Enter the white stone passage and you'll go uphill, ending up at the fortress, from where you can quickly descend to the city centre.

Marash district (Kompleksi përmendor Marash)

E-2. Just upriver from the Albanian League Museum, at the foot of the hill, a small area has managed to preserve the atmosphere of old Prizren more than elsewhere. Consisting of several traditional residential buildings, the 1833 Mosque of Maksut Pasha, and a mausoleum of the Saadi order, it's a calm spot to wander and imagine how all Balkan towns once were. Be sure to visit the restored 18th century Shotman Mill (now café Mullini), which has a branch of the river gushing straight through it, down wooden troughs which would have driven the waterwheels for grinding wheat and corn. By the river, a fat 400-year-old plane tree, the only of its kind in Balkans, is located beside a natural spring and provides welcome shade to the people chatting beneath its branches in the summer months.

NATO Monument (Monumenti i NATO-s) Sheshi Ekrem Rexha.

A monument resembling the NATO emblem and surrounded by flags of the member states was inaugurated in June 2010, to thank the organisation for its contribution to the liberation of and peacekeeping in Kosovo.

Prizren in Your iPhone

The full Prizren In Your Pocket guide is also available as an iPhone app, complete with GPS coordinates for all listings. See www.prizren.inyourpocket.com for more.

City tours

Horse cart rides D-3, Sheshi Shadërvan, tel. +377 44 55 94 43.

A lovely way to see the city is to clippity-clop around the streets in Kadri Palla's cart, pulled by Rubin the horse. The original antique cart has been on Prizren's streets for over 70 years, starting off as a taxi service, later switching to the tourism and wedding day trade. A 20-minute ride for five people costs €5. Find Kadri waiting on Sheshi Shadërvan, or call for a pick-up.



Ruben and his owner on Sheshi Shadërvan

Stone Bridge (Ura e Gurit) D-3.

Many bridges cross the Lumbardhi River that bisects Prizren. The triple-arched Stone Bridge was the first to be constructed with stones as it was the most important in the city, linking Shadërvan Square with the hammam and mosque complex across the river. It dates from the 16th century, and stood strong for four centuries before heavy floods washed it away in 1979. The current reincarnation was built soon after.

Tabakhane Mill (Mulliri në Tabakhane) B-3, Rr. Remzi Ademi.

At one time Prizren boasted several mills spread out along the fast-running Lumbardhi river that flows through its centre, the intriguing Tabakhane Mill being the last of a dying breed. Dating from the 20th century, blink and you'll miss this place, small and slightly hidden away as it is. Taking its power by thrusting river water along a pipe under the mill that powers two sets of millstones grinding corn and wheat, the technology hasn't changed for centuries. The mill is an unassuming and rather drab building made of stone and clay and with a dilapidated tin roof and isn't exactly a tourist attraction - but the doors are generally open and visitors are welcome. ► Open 08:00 - 16:00. Closed Sat, Sun.



Entrance to Gani Dukagjini's House

Cultural Heritage without Borders (CHwB) is a Swedish foundation working to preserve cultural monuments endangered in various ways. The organisation was founded in April, 1995, in the spirit of the Hague Convention from 1954 to land international support to cultural heritage at risk of being destroyed whether as a result of natural disasters, war, neglect because of poverty, political or social conditions. Working with cultural heritage can help vulnerable groups recover their sense of dignity and empowerment, which in turn can increase the possibilities for reconciliation and fight against poverty.

CHwB Headquarters is based in Stockholm (Sweden) and has a Regional Office in Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) with a branch in Tirana (Albania) and a local office in Prishtina (Kosovo). CHwB through different projects and network organisations is active in the South East European region.

CHwB projects are primarily funded by Sida (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency) not excluding international, local donors and co-funders for number of projects.

CHwB is active in Kosovo since 2001. Our activities are focused on three programmes:

"Damage to cultural property belonging to any people whatsoever means damage to the cultural heritage of all mankind, since each people makes its contribution to the culture of the world."
Hague Convention, 1954

INTEGRATED CONSERVATION

The overall objective of the programme is to contribute to strengthening the role of institutions in integrating cultural heritage in the spatial and urban planning process in Kosovo as well as treating cultural heritage as a development factor for society. Conservation planning as a global trend is a rapidly evolving field that has enabled a transition from ad hoc protection to systematic planning involving pattern, process and biodiversity persistence. More recently, attention has been focused on incorporating socio-economic realities into conservation planning, particularly in terms of minimizing the management and opportunity costs of protection.

Some of the projects conducted in this field are:

- Pilot Preservation and Development Plan for Isniq village (Dečan/Dečani);
- Pilot Preservation and Development Plan for Historic Road of Dečan/Dečani;
- Pilot Preservation and Development Plan for Dranoc village (Dečan/Dečani);
- Conservation and Development Plan for Historic Zone of Prizren (photo below);
- Municipal Development Plan, Urban Development Plan, Urban Regulatory Plan for the city centre and Conservation and Development Plan of Junik;
- Heritage of Prishtina/ Priština;
- Visioning Workshop for Prizren, Junik, Mamusha/Mamuša and Hani i Elezit/Elez Han;
- Various workshops, seminars, conferences, etc...

RESTORATION OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

The overall objective of the programme is to encourage and promote the usage of the unique values of traditional craftsmanship, techniques and materials through restoration competence, in order to benefit from it in social and economical aspects and to provide professional training for relevant institutions.

Some of the projects conducted in this field are:

- Restoration of Five Kullas in western Kosovo (Kuklec, Osdautaj, Demukaj, Oda e Junikut and Gockaj Kulla);
- Restoration of Mazrekaj Kulla in Dranoc village (Dečan/Dečani) - (photo below);
- Restoration of Isa Boletin Kulla in Boletin / Boljetin (Mitrovica);
- Restoration of Hoxhaj Kulla in Junik;
- Restoration of Hadum Mosque in Gjakova/Djakovica;
- Restoration of Saraj House in Hoçë e Madhe / Velika Hoča (Rahovec / Orahovac);
- Restoration of Episcopal Residence and Orthodox Seminary in Prizren;
- Restoration of Clock Tower in Rahovec / Orahovac;
- Restoration of Arasta Minaret in Prizren;
- Restoration of Great Hammam in Prishtina/Priština;
- Restoration of City Hammam roof in Mitrovica;
- Various workshops, training, field visits, etc...

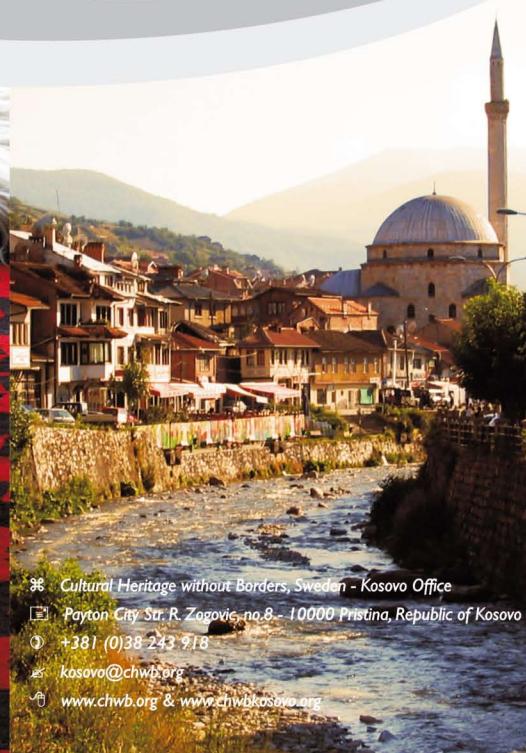
AWARENESS ON CULTURAL HERITAGE

The overall objective of the programme is to ensure development of local communities and preservation of cultural heritage through the introduction of different awareness and education projects and income-generating activities that respect the values of natural and cultural heritage.

In addition, this will result in proper maintenance and promotion of cultural heritage focusing on cultural tourism and community participation.

Some of the projects conducted in this field are:

- Assistance to central institutions on conduction of cultural heritage database of Kosovo;
- European Heritage Day celebrations in Kosovo;
- Cyclist event "Tour de Culture" in Kosovo (photo below);
- Prishtina International Summer University courses;
- Open lectures and debates in University of Prishtina / Faculty of Architecture;
- Restoration Camps for youth;
- Woman association traditional handicraft support projects;
- Bed and breakfast service in Mazrekaj Kulla in village Dranoc (Dečan/Dečani) and Ramë Zyberi Kulla in Junik;
- Direct support to local NGO's for cultural heritage awareness;
- Various debates, seminars, study visits, etc...



Cultural Heritage without Borders, Sweden - Kosovo Office
Pavon City Str. R. Zogoviq, no.8 - 10000 Prishtina, Republic of Kosovo
+381 (0)38 243 918
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www.chwb.org & www.chwbkosovo.org



Daytrips: east of Prizren

Sharri Mountains National Park

The mighty Sharri Mountains (Malet e Sharrit) cover a total of 1,600 square kilometres shared between Kosovo, Albania and Macedonia. Containing over 20 mountains over 2,000 metres and at least 10 significantly large lakes, the mountains are hugely popular with scores of visitors and locals alike for the many hiking, skiing, rock-climbing and other leisure pursuits they afford. The 380 square-kilometre Sharri Mountains National Park, which is entirely in Kosovo, offers all of the above opportunities for visitors and more besides. Bursting with an abundance of magnificent flora and fauna, the park is also speckled with colourful towns and villages representing the rich ethnic diversity of the region. Still relatively unspoilt and slowly developing a full tourist infrastructure, the park offers visitors scores of beguiling possibilities for the adventurous traveller.

Avid hikers should get in touch with the prizren-based **Sharri Mountain Association** (www.shbsharri.org) which has over 200 members from all communities and ages who love the great outdoors. The association organises regular activities that aim to develop and promote responsible mountain tourism, among others hiking, orientation, mountain rescue, environmental protection, and path signing. The association has a mountain hut set at 1,300 metres above sea level, with 11 rooms and 100 beds, two kitchens and a TV hall, that is available for foreign visitors. The hut is just 30 minutes from Prizren, and can be reached by car.

Place names

Albanian	Serbian
Bresanë	Brodosavce
Brod	Brod
Buzez	Buzec
Dragash	Dragaš
Dukagjini	Metohija
Hoçë e Madhe	Velika Hoča
Mamushë	Mamuša
Prevallë	Prevalac
Rahovec	Orahovac
Reçan	Rečane
Sharri	Šar
Vërmicë	Vrbnica

Prizren regional map



Prevalla

Close to the Macedonian border some 26km east of Prizren at an altitude of just over 1,500m, Prevalla's unique location gives it a combined Mediterranean and continental climate. A gruelling, white-knuckle drive along winding roads with the occasional herd of sheep getting in the way, a trip to Prevalla is worth the effort even if you're only thinking of going there for something to eat. Little more than a sprawling collection of buildings, Prevalla's stunning scenery attracts hikers year-round and during the winter also provides a basic ski run, suitable for beginners and intermediate skiers and snowboarders. Complete with a simple ski lift, the run is surrounded by several small kiosks which open in the winter and that all rent the equipment necessary to use the slope without having to bring your own. Prices are more than affordable.



Prevalla views

Food & Lodging: Reçan & Sharri

Villa Park

Featuring a large, aristocratic interior and a series of large terraces outside spread out along the Lumbardhi river in the heart of the Reçan Valley, this superb restaurant just east of Reçan serves a mighty range of local and international dishes including a mouth-watering selection of grilled meats and the local speciality Sharri cheese, similar to Cypriot haloumi. The fresh bread is totally out of this world, there's a great range of desserts and they also stock a wide selection of the local Stone Castle wines. Local band Kuarteti Pentagram (www.kuartetipentagram.org) turn up from time to time to serenade the diners. Credit cards accepted. Highly recommended. ▶ **Villa Park, Reçan, tel. +377 44 29 59 73, open 08:00 – 24:00.**

White House

The next building east from Villa Park also features an action-packed menu of artery-clogging grilled meat dishes. It also comes with a collection of wooden chalets which visitors can stay in for a good price. ▶ **White House, tel. +377 44 12 03 37, white-house_pz@hotmail.com, open 08:00 - 24:00.**

Sharri **Prevallë, Prizren-Brezovica road, km20, tel. +377 44 66 26 74/+377 44 50 19 97.** Set at an altitude of 1,200m, Sharri is a relatively new and relatively luxurious hotel with spectacular views of the surrounding mountains. Accommodation options include clean rooms with en suite facilities and several villas (large ones sleeping 4-6 people) for a more self-catering type of stay at affordable prices. The restaurant serves local and international dishes. ▶ 20 rooms (singles €40, doubles €50-80, villas €65-80). ☎️🌐✉️

Madera

In the centre of Reçan just off the main road, Madera is a simple-looking restaurant with a magician working in the kitchen. With the exception of perhaps the fried brains everything on the menu, which features a host of dishes from trout to the fabulous sounding Shouting (Bedlam) Beefsteak, comes highly recommended. During the summer an upstairs terrace opens, making it even more attractive than ever.



In the woods near Prevalla

Food & Lodging: Prevalla

Eja

Prevallë. Immediately opposite Prevalla's ski run, Eja's restaurant is a melting pot of guns and animal skins, with a menu that explains what they did with the insides of the beasts on the walls. Out the back are a few cheap rooms for rent, all of them basic to say the least, with en suite facilities in all. ▶ (rooms €20).

Kulla e Jetimit

Prevallë. Run by a local charity which ploughs its profits into the well-being of the region's less privileged children and orphans, this extraordinary place right next to the ski run has several restaurants and a hotel. The small restaurant at the front of the building is the more rustic and features a nice pot-bellied stove in the middle of the room. Hot food is cooked in both a traditional wood-fired oven (try their truly delicious pide) and on a rotating stick, the latter providing excellent value and much talked about doner kebabs. Also not to be missed is their fresh fruit juice, made from local blueberries. No alcohol is served on the premises. The rooms feature amazing carved wooden beds. There's also a large garden out the back, an extremely popular place during the summer. The owners claim that the air here has extraordinary healing properties, even going to far as to state that three weeks here will completely rejuvenate and cleanse the body. ▶ 7 rooms (doubles €15). ☎️

Daytrips: south of Prizren

Dragash

Immediately south of Prizren in the direction of both Albania and Macedonia, Dragash is both a district and town (also known to the Kosovar Albanian population as Sharr), and gets its name from the 14th century Serbian lord, Constantine Dragaš. Featuring a hitherto almost entirely unexplored, ancient cultural heritage, the area was once part of a Roman trade route linking the Macedonian town of Tetova with Shkodra in Albania. Today the region depends heavily on sheep and cattle farming, with tourism barely making an impact. Covering an area of 435 square kilometres, the average altitude is around 1,500m, making it an ideal place for rural and winter tourism. Ethnically, the region is made up predominantly of local Albanians, Bosniaks (Muslims of Bosnian origin) and a handful of Gorani, a mysterious localised Muslim ethnic group. Much of the countryside is already popular with the locals for its wealth of flora and fauna, much of the latter considered fair game by local hunters.

Lake Vërmica

Some 17km south of Prizren on the main road to Kukës and the Albanian border crossing at Drinas, Lake Vërmica is in reality the far northern tip of Albania's Lake Fierzë, an artificial body of water created in 1978 to generate electricity for Enver Hoxha's beleaguered communist regime. At the time, the lake came as an unpleasant surprise to the Yugoslav authorities, who had not been told the lake would encroach on their territory. The small section of the lake in Kosovo barely covers two square kilometres but still manages to pack visitors in during the summer, who come to the area to picnic on the lake's grassy banks, swim and fish for local trout.

Food & Lodging: Vërmica

Univers

Lake Vërmica, tel. +377 44 40 15 52/+377 44 41

41 72, www.univers-ks.eu.tt. One of the most popular places to eat along the short stretch of lake, and just a stone's throw from the Albanian border. A large glass restaurant at the back of the building works all year round with much larger outdoor space by the side of the lake, complete with bars, kitchens and jetty. By local standards the menu is something of a revolution, possessing not only local dishes included local trout but also such rarities as burritos and even Thai food.



Liqeni

Nothing much to write home about inside, but the lakeside summer terrace complete with cascading waterfalls and tiny little footbridges play host to hordes of diners during the summer, not least because the tout served here is legendary. Other dishes include fish soup, calamari, corn bread and fruit salad. ► **Liqeni, tel. +377 44 11 32 45, open 08:00 - 22:00.**

prizren.inyourpocket.com

Bresanë & Buzëz

If you've got a real taste for adventure and plenty of time on your hands, an interesting diversion into the true back of beyond to the village of Bresanë and the neighbouring hamlet of Buzëz provides an interesting and rewarding way of spending two or three hours. Note that signposts simply don't exist in this neck of the woods, although thankfully there's usually plenty of people out and about to help point you down the right road.

Kukli Mehmed Bej's Mosque

Towards the end of a small road full of holes lies the equally diminutive village of Bresanë. Las Vegas it isn't, but it is notable as being both a classic example of a typical local rural community and also claims a rather charming mosque. The exact history of Kukli Mehmed Bej's Mosque is unknown, although it's believed to date from before 1538. Built in a rectangular form, in the southeast corner close to the minaret is the mausoleum of Kukli Mehmed Bej's family. The roof is of a classic stone tile construction, and inside the simple white plastered exterior the interior is notable for a rather extraordinary clock, with prayer times lit up in red LEDs showing a list of extraordinarily exact times for prayer (11:44, 18:07 etc). An identical timepiece can be found in Prizren's Bajrakli Mosque. The attached cemetery is in excellent condition, boasting a marvellous collection of stone and wooden graves that go back centuries.

Namazxhah

Immediately east of the village of Buzëz on the brow of small hill and set back on the northeast side of the road are the remains of the so-called Namazxhah, an open mosque of the type built by the Ottomans when they first arrived in the region. Believed to predate the Namazxhah in Prizren, which was built in 1455, the mosque fell into disrepair a long time ago and all that remains are the base of the original minaret and a few surviving remnants of the walls. A new stone bench at the back section of the ruins has been made for the purpose of washing the bodies of deceased local Muslims who are then laid to rest in the small cemetery located between the Namazxhah and the road.



Kukli Mehmed Bej's Mosque in Bresanë

Brod

Not to be confused with the neighbouring village of the same name just over the Macedonian border, Brod is situated close to the end of another perilously winding road through breathtaking mountain scenery. A somewhat nondescript place full of narrow streets with little in the way of entertainment, the majority of the 8,000 or so people who live here are Gorani, who rely on sheep and cattle for their livelihoods much the same way as they've done for centuries. The village boasts one small shop and a café, and is worth having a quick look around before heading further east to the very end of the trail.



Mountain landscape around Brod

Food & Lodging: Brod

Arxhena Brod, tel./fax +381 29 28 51 70, www.arxhena.com. Driving out of Brod towards the southeast in the direction of Macedonia, the paved road ceases but continues as a dirt track for several more kilometres. In good weather it's possible to drive the track in a normal vehicle, a bumpy ride of 10 minutes or so that's finally rewarded with the sight of one of the most extraordinary looking buildings in the region. Although Arxhena appears to contain elements of classic Yugoslavian concrete architecture the building is much newer than this, and contains both a restaurant and small hotel. The 1,520m location really feels like the edge of the world, especially during the low season when the complex is empty with the exception of a couple of members of staff and the occasional passing fisherman. The in-house restaurant provides hearty local fare including the all the usual grilled meat dishes as well as the house special, *mish katundi*, a delicious clay pot full of meat and vegetables, cooked in the oven. Surplus to the basic hotel facilities are outdoor tennis courts and a small conference room. People flock here at certain times of the year to take advantage of the hiking opportunities, ski on the slopes running up the side of the mountain behind the main building and to whizz about the landscape on snowmobiles. Many of the visitors walk through the nearby pass that separates the complex from Macedonia a few kilometres to the east. Arxhena is 50km from Prizren and can be reached by car in good weather in about 90 minutes. In a fit of unprecedented common sense, Arxhena's owners have seen fit to erect a series of signs at strategic sites around the tiny streets of Brod making finding the place an absolute breeze. ► 28 rooms (9 singles €30, 9 doubles €30-50, 10 triples €45).

Daytrips north-west of Prizren

Mamusha

Kosovo's newest municipality, and the only one with a Turkish majority, is 15km north of Prizren, on the Rahovec road. Famous for beautiful nature and worth a stop for the historical Ottoman clock tower, it's especially well known for tomato cultivation. The annual Tomato Festival takes place on 23 July, offering visitors a chance to try traditional local food including pie, watermelon, and of course tomatoes, while local folklore ensembles perform music and dance.

Rahovec

Archaeological evidence suggests that the bustling hillside town and surrounding region of Rahovec approximately 30km north of Prizren has been populated since at least Illyrian times some two thousand years ago. Mentioned as a settlement along with several other villages notable for the cultivation of grapes in 1384, the region is made up of a combination of hills, valleys and mountains and offers visitors countless things to see and do. The majority of the population are Kosovar Albanian although there are a few notable Serb enclaves of interest as well. Agriculture remains the prime source of income for the region, with the cultivation of grapes for wine making being among the top industries. The town itself is a lively and colourful place, full of shops and cafés and worth further investigation on foot.

Clock tower

Close to the centre of town in the mixed neighbourhood of Gradina, the rectangular clock tower from 1791 is made of stone held together with lime mortar. The tower's Austro-Hungarian-era bell that chimed the time disappeared, but ongoing restoration should see it replaced. The top of the tower features a black communist star that marks the highest spot in town – it's fate is still undecided.



The clock tower in Rahovec

Mountain water

An abundance of melting snow and fresh springs in the area around Prizren creates hundreds of small streams that cascade down the mountains throughout the year. Driving around the mountains reveals an abundance of places where these streams have been tapped for public use. Generally named in honour of the individual who built the tap, these often elaborately decorated drinking stations provide the kind of fresh water most people can only dream about. Stopping for a drink is a must when in the area.

Stone Castle Vineyards & Winery

Located about half way along the northernmost of the two roads to Rahovec that goes through the town of Fortesë, the recently privatised Stone Castle vineyard and wine producer offers a couple of interesting diversions for travellers in the area. Set in the glorious Rahovec Valley which receives an average 270 days of sunshine each year, the excellent combination of climate and soil makes the Rahovec area an ideal location for growing a number of different grapes for the production of several different types of wine, and has been doing so for several centuries. A annual total of 70,000 tonnes of grapes grown by Stone Castle and local grape growers on some 2,240 hectares of land are used to produce up to 12 million litres of wine, brandy and raki which is sold throughout Kosovo as well as in the UK, The Netherlands, Switzerland and Austria and other countries around Europe. Although they don't organise tours, Stone Castle do offer the option of private parties, in which guests are asked to call in advance before bringing their own food and paying €7 a head, a small sum that entitles them to drink as much wine as they like inside the main storage area among hundreds of large oak barrels. Be warned that the storage area is cold. Don't come in a t-shirt. Close to the main entrance on the other side of the road is the Wine Castle shop, selling a good range of everything they produce, including Chardonnay, Rhine Riesling, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Pinot noir as well as the aforementioned spirits. Many of the restaurants listed in this guide sell Wine Castle products, which although perhaps not heading for any global awards for excellence soon is perfectly fine to drink. The second Thursday of September sees the town of Rahovec celebrate the region's annual Wine Festival, featuring people dressed in the traditional clothing of the region, singing, dancing and the consumption of plenty of local wine.

Stone Castle Vineyards & Winery, tel. +381 29 27 60 53, info@stonecastlewine.com, www.stonecastlewine.com.

► Open 07:00-18:00, Sat 09:00-18:00, Sun closed.

Hoça e Madhe (Velika Hoča)

Marked on recently-produced local maps as Hoça e Madhe although perhaps better known as Velika Hoča, the small Serbian enclave just south of Rahovec has been an important community for the Serbian Orthodox Church and the famed local wine producers of the region for over 800 years. Boasting a dozen or so Orthodox churches dating from the 12th to the 18th century, the village is worth a visit not just for its religious architectural heritage but also for two recently buildings, one with an emotive past and the other looking very much to the future. It should be noted that visiting both places mentioned here remains tricky. At the time of writing, readers interested in getting inside either of the buildings should contact the CHWB office in Prizren or Pristina.

Gospodarska Kuća-Saraj

Built some time around the turn of the 20th century, this fine edifice represents a beautiful example of vernacular architecture in the region. Originally used along the lines of a country retreat and essentially a smaller version of a citizen house, it was completely renovated to its former glory in 2006 and now operates as a focal point for the community. Inside on the ground floor is an exhibition of paintings by locals and visiting artists, some of them extremely well executed and worth the journey in themselves. Upstairs are an office, meeting space and small internet room which has to date successfully been used both for training purposes as well as a way of the local youths finding sweethearts in other parts of Kosovo. Essentially a community-arts centre housed inside a remarkable building, the centre functions both as a focal point for the local community as well as for the promotion of social activities with people from further afield. Close to the entrance

Sharr Sheepdog

The Sharr Sheepdog, known as Qeni i Sharrit in Albanian and Šarplaninac in Serbian is the traditional working dog in the area around the Sharri mountains where it's most commonly found. Weighing anything up to 80kg and sometimes even more, it is similar in colour to a German Shepherd but with a generally more squat face. Smart, placid and loyal to their owners, encounters with the dog whilst in Kosovo should be treated with minor caution as they're sometimes known to be hostile to strangers. Used almost exclusively as herding animals and guard dogs, thinking of owning one as a pet isn't recommended. Prices of puppies start at around €500, with a fully grown hound fetching somewhere in the region of €2,000.

of the building is a small row of kiosks, notable for selling locally produced raki in bottles, each one containing a wooden cross carved by a local artist, some carefully contrived to extract visitors' money with the inclusion of intricately carved NATO motifs. To be sure the centre and the Lazar Kujundzic Tower are open, contact the CHWB office in Pristina in advance.

Lazar Kujundzic's Tower

In the lower part of the village the story of the Lazar Kujundzic Tower, a typical example of a kulla from the Dukagjini/Metohija Plain and built towards the end of the 19th century, is an interesting one dear to the locals' hearts. In 1905 the building was owned by a local Albanian who one night took in a small group of Serbian freedom fighters including Lazar Kujundzic. Whilst they were staying here the Ottoman army surrounded and laid the building under siege, killing Kujundzic and his compatriots and seriously damaging the building. In 1934 it was restored and was turned into a mausoleum for the Serbian heroes who remain buried inside a stone sarcophagus in the main downstairs space. Renovated again in 2004, ask nicely and the guide will slide off the top stone to reveal the bones of the three martyrs inside.



Tour de Culture (p.11) at the Gospodarska Kuća-Saraj

The relatively large city of Gjakova, a straightforward 30-minute drive northwest of Prizren, has its roots way back in the Dardanian period of history. Known in previous times as Patkova, Reka and Altin, the name Gjakova (Đakovica in Serbian) first appeared in historical Ottoman records in 1485. During the 17th century the city went through a period of rapid development, with many mosques, hans, tekkes and a beautiful hamam being constructed during this time. Pride of place in the centre of the city was the Çarshia e Madhe, or Grand Bazaar, a large marketplace attracting traders from all over the region that was seriously damaged during the 1999 war but that's now almost completely renovated. Unlike most of the other destinations outside of Prizren mentioned in this guide, Gjakova has enough to see and do to warrant an overnight stay. Gjakova has plenty to see, and the following few sights serve as a brief introduction to the city. A future *In Your Pocket* guide will dedicate much more space to it.

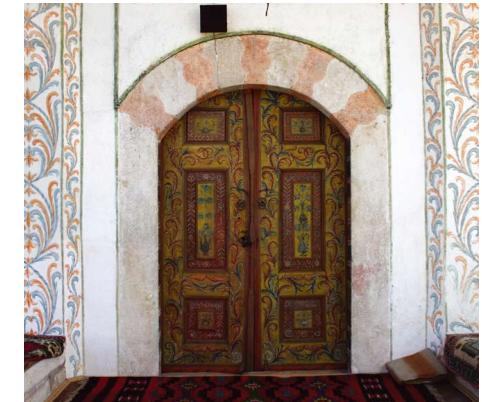
What to see

Bektashi Tekke (Teqja e Bektashive) Çarshia e Madhe.

Home to Gjakova's mystical Bektashi order, this modern tekke painted in traditional green and white colours was built in 2007 on the foundations of the original that burned to the ground during the 1999 war. Located in the centre of the Çarshia e Madhe, it's open during the week when Sheh Baba Mumin Lama is only too pleased to show visitors around and to tell them about the history and philosophy of the Bektashi.

Hadum Mosque (Xhamia e Hadumit) Çarshia e Madhe.

Dating from the last decade of the 16th century and built at the behest of Hadum Syleiman Efendi-Hadum Aga, this gorgeous mosque in the centre of the Çarshia e Madhe is a must-see for anybody visiting Gjakova. Comprising a main prayer hall, ornate vestibule and minaret, the mosque is famous for its colourful interior and exterior. Inside find many wooden elements, dizzying arabesque patterns and colourful landscapes, whilst the front door is a blaze of flowers and plants in blues, reds and yellows. Seriously damaged in 1999, restoration work began in 2003, was almost complete at the time of writing in early 2010.



Hadum Mosque

Hani i Haraqisë Çarshia e Vjetër, tel. +377 44 27 26

67. One of two traditional restaurants located inside an old han (inn) in Çarshia e Vjetër, this is the more flamboyant of the two, featuring two floors of dining in magnificent surroundings. The building is one of the oldest in Gjakova, dating from 1562. ► Open 08:00 - 24:00.

Pashtriku Rr. Nëna Terezë, tel. +377 44 54 77 01. The large Pashtriku hotel was built during the heady days of the 1980s and at the time was among the most prestigious places to stay in the region. Fully renovated after 1999, the hotel boasts a grand total of 144 well equipped rooms. Extras include banqueting halls, swimming pool and a fitness centre.

The bridges of Gjakova county

Tailors' Bridge (Ura e Terzive)

On the outskirts of Gjakova close to the small Catholic-populated village of Bishtazhin is the Ura e Terzive (Tailors' Bridge), a fine example of Ottoman stone bridge architecture dating from 1750 and named so as it's believed it was paid for by local tailors. Once the longest bridge in Kosovo, the structure is closed to road traffic but is clearly visible from the modern bridge that runs alongside.

Sacred Bridge (Ura e Shenjtë)

Close to the settlement of Gekhë on the main road from Prizren to Gjakova is a rather nondescript bridge, Ura e Shenjtë (Sacred Bridge), crossing the Drin i Bardhë river with a particularly charming if not slightly bizarre story. According to legend, three brothers set to work building the structure but were thwarted at every turn. A sacrifice needed to be made to appease the gods, and one of the brothers' wives was interred in the masonry with a hole left open in order to keep breastfeeding her infant. The bridge, which is at the southern end of a splendid gorge, is a hugely popular place during the summer when people come to camp, party, and jump off the bridge.



Gjakova's renovated old bazaar

Ura e Shenjtë Restaurant & Motel

Good food and a great terrace near the Sacred Bridge. There are also two cottages alongside that can be rented complete with living room, two bedrooms, kitchen and bathroom. ► Open 08:00 - 24:00. Cottages €30.

Brezovica is unquestionably one of the most promising ski resorts in the Balkans, but years of neglect due to Kosovo's disputed status and interethnic tensions have thwarted all attempts to realise its great potential. Only three of its nine ski lifts work, and that's on a good day, many of the hotels have not seen a cent of investment in the past 20 years, and at weekends the roads and pistes are jam-packed with buses of children and unprepared townies. But these gripes aside, Brezovica remains a superb place to ski, especially if you are able to visit on a weekday, and provides ideal hiking ground in the spring, summer and autumn.

Brezovica is 45km east of Prizren and 70km south of Pristina, in the southern Sharr mountains which border Macedonia. Its heyday was the 1980s, when it became the favoured skiing destination for the Yugoslav elite, hosting 120,000 overnight stays a year. In 1984, it was an alternative venue for the Sarajevo Winter Olympics and the slopes have been officially registered by the Federation Internationale de Ski (FIS). The nine ski lifts were built in the 1980s by German and Swiss contractors but have received little investment since then, resulting in regular breakdowns. The actual village of Brezovica is at 900 metres above sea level and is a 10-minute, steep drive to the ski centre at 1,800 metres. The settlement is mostly made up of holiday chalets, once owned by the Yugoslav elite and more recently bought up by wealthy Kosovo Albanian businessmen and politicians.

Transport & Orientation

Brezovica is a 70km, 90-minute drive from Pristina and a 45km, 40-minute drive from Prizren, and is signposted from the Prizren-Strpcë road. In winter, snow chains are recommended for the steep final 8km. Travel agencies in Pristina and other cities arrange tour buses to the slopes in winter.

Brezovica has no street names or landmarks, but the main ski centre is beside the huge Hotel Molika. On foot, following signs to Pizzeria Tina will lead you steep up to a wooden map of Brezovica and a clutch of bars, restaurants and the Woodlands Hotel.

Hiking the high peaks

Brezovica could be a hikers' paradise, but poor infrastructure and a lack of information once again don't make it easy to enjoy this beautiful area on foot. Most of the facilities by the ski lifts close down for the summer months, although the Woodlands Hotel plans to open all year round, and Dane Rent and Service offers mountain biking and guided tours outside the ski season. There are no easily obtainable maps – a pre-war walking guide does exist but has virtually disappeared from circulation. If you're looking for an unguided stress free stroll, use the ski slopes as paths. You can make a long circular walk taking one of the main pistes up and the other main slope down. It's worth keeping an eye on organised hikes by Arben Islami, known in the summer as Hiking Njeri, on the www.njeri.com/hiking website, although the text is in Albanian. Contact Arben through the Facebook group Hiking Njeri, which has information in English. Landmines remain a problem in the Sharr mountains, so do not stray off paths, do not enter fenced-off areas and keep your eyes peeled for signs. As ever, it's more prudent to take a guide with you.

Where to stay

All these hotels promise 24-hour electricity and hot water. Breakfast is included in the price unless noted.

Molika Tel. +381 29 07 03 33/+381 17 41 09 46.

This hulking great monstrosity screams 'communism' from all angles, and even its surprisingly friendly staff admit that this Yugoslav-era hotel hasn't seen proper lick off paint since it was built in the 1980s. The rooms are run down, with worn carpets, shabby furniture and unappealing bathrooms, but are clean, warm and cheap. Right next to the ski lifts, but certainly not the best place in town. The 300-capacity restaurant serves up traditional fare and there's Brezovica's only nightclub which is hardly the stuff of dreams but can be lively on busy weekends. ► 100 three-bedded rooms (singles €35, doubles €75, triples €54). □

Mountain Motel Tel. +381 638 16 52 56/+381 638 57 68 41.

The best budget option in the resort offers small, modern, clean rooms and suites equipped with a kitchen. The restaurant is one of the best in Brezovica, serving up typical, hearty mountain fare from the Štrpcë region, strong local brandy and some of the best vistas in the resort. Don't be put off by the owner's curmudgeonly demeanour - Ivan is a very affable and helpful chap. Find it just beyond the chair lifts. ► 9 rooms (6 doubles €20, 3 suites). □

Woodlands Hotel Tel. +377 44 44 44 48/+386 49

44 44 48, info@woodlandhotel-ks.com, www.woodlandhotel-ks.com. The new Woodlands Hotel is by far the most comfortable and stylish option, although the prices are relatively steep. All rooms include modern bathrooms, flatscreen televisions and comfortable beds; apartments have a jacuzzi and sleep up to four people. The hotel is just a few paces from the slopes. Your bags are delivered to the rooms by snowmobile. The restaurant has more of the trendy urban feel than rustic mountain lodge and serves Balkan specialities as well some international dishes, a rarity in this part of Kosovo. ► 21 rooms (12 doubles €70, 3 triples €90, 4 quads €120, 2 apartments €150). □

Where to eat

Apart from at these places, eating out is also possible at the Woodlands and Molika hotels, while Molika has the resort's only club.

David's Pub Tel. +381 631 81 85 88/+377 44 49 21 64, www.brezovicaskiresort.com. This homely log cabin serves up excellent grilled meat, huge cold platters and has a central log fire which is perfect for warming those icy fingers. Being the first house in the ski resort, the beleaguered staff is regularly called upon to rescue ill-prepared city drivers with the last stretch of the steep road - and they do so with a smile. It's a pleasant place for a glass of the local brandy, Serbian beer and a chat with the knowledgeable owners. ► Open 08:00 - 24:00.



Off-piste skiing Shannon Rice



The ski lift at Brezovica Shannon Rice

Skiing in Brezovica

At weekends, two long chair-lifts and one T-bar are usually operational, with one of the two chairlifts mostly closed on weekdays. It is not unheard of for the employees not to start the lifts at all during the week if there is not enough demand. A day pass will set you back €12, a two-day pass €20, a week pass €60 and a season pass €250. Passes can be purchased at the ticket centre under the Molika hotel or from the lift attendants.

The main descents take you down from a height of 2,500 or 2,200 metres to the main centre at 1,800 on a mix of red, black and blues pistes, which do not meet Alpine standards in terms of maintenance but are nonetheless pretty well-kept. These are not slopes for beginners, but the width of the runs and variety in terrain mean that intermediate skiers can plot a route down even on the black sections. The views on the way down are superb, taking in the deep river valley and the series of snowy peaks which make up Kosovo's mountain ranges.

Experienced skiers rave about the quality of the slopes and snow, and there is good off-piste action to be had. It must, however, be noted that the parts of the Sharr mountains are mined, that avalanches are not uncommon and that search-and-rescue and first aid facilities are very limited. If you want to go off-piste, it's recommended that you take a guide with you. The only option for beginners is a blue slope with a T-bar lift, which is often too crowded at weekends for true novices to take lessons. A snow park opened this year with a range of ramps and pipes for snowboarders and skiers to enjoy, and a yearly extreme sports' event, including DJs and concerts, called Snowpark (www.snowpark-ks.com) was held for the first time in March.

Brezovica's promoters often boast of having good snow conditions for an average of 130 days a year, with the season spanning from November to May, but based on conditions in recent years, this is a tad optimistic. The 2009/10 season was, by all accounts, one of the worst in decades, as the snow arrived in late December and the spring thaw arrived in late March. In between, skiers often had to brave foggy conditions and strong winds. Brezovica suffers from frequent power cuts, but the lifts have a generator back-up, meaning that you will not be stranded for long if the electricity cuts out. January tends to be the busiest time, when the slopes are full of school children. March offers the best skiing, combining warmer, sunny days and good snow. Be warned, weekends can be absurdly busy, with often poorly skilled skiers showing little regard to safety, kamikaze sledgers hogging the baby slope and women in high-heels mingling, flag in hand, by the chair lifts. These factors may not aid skiing, but certainly make Brezovica a great place to soak up the atmosphere, grab a bite to eat or party the night away.

Decent skiing equipment can be rented cheaply from two shops, Dane and Ski-servis Borzani, where enough English is spoken to ensure you get the right boot size. Both shops also offer lessons, although it is advisable to book ahead.

Ski Information

To find out if the lifts are working, it's often best to call one of the hotels or restaurants in the morning. Also check the following websites:

Brezovica Ski www.brezovica-ski.com/en; events and a useful but imprecise section on the operation of ski lifts and snow conditions.

Serbian ski forum www.skijanje.rs/forum
Snow Njeri www.njeri.net/snow; news, photos and an Albanian forum.

Webcam www.ipko.net/ipko_portal

Prizren's city centre is small enough to get around on foot, but if you're heading to the outskirts or out of town you'll need a car, taxi or bus.

Airports

Pristina's small international airport (PRN, *Aeroporti Ndérkombétar i Prishtinës*, www.airportpristina.com, flight information tel. +381 38 595 81 23) is 15km west of Pristina on the road towards Peja. The fastest connection to and from Prizren is via Pristina's ring road or bus station. Taxis (€15-25) connect the airport to the capital city, for a taxi directly to Prizren see *Arriving in Prizren* (p.5) for recommended companies. Various European airlines serve Pristina. When departing from Kosovo, it's a good idea to confirm departure times in advance.

Taxis

Taxi fares are low in Prizren, starting at €1,50 (€2 after 22:00) plus €0,60 per kilometre. To ensure a fair fare, order a taxi in advance from one of the local companies listed here.

Radio Taxi Blue Tel. +386 49 55 52 52.

Radio Taxi Fortuna Tel. +377 44 38 00 00.

Radio Taxi OK Tel. +386 49 33 35 00.

Radio Taxi Prizreni Tel. +377 44 27 98 88.

Car rental

All car rental agents are concentrated in Pristina, and those looking to hire some wheels will need to pick the car up there, or enquire about delivery to Prizren. Below are the main rental agents in Pristina.

Europcar Tel. +381 38 54 14 01, info@europcar-ks.com, www.europcar-ks.com.

Hertz Tel. +381 38 54 44 80, hertz_b1@yahoo.com, www.hertz.com.

MCM Tel. +381 38 24 00 24, info@mcmrent.com, www.mcmrent.com.

Shotani Tel. +381 38 54 42 24, contact@rentacarshotani.com, www.rentacarshotani.com.



Oldtimers Fest on Shadervan Square

Public transport

Prizren's sights are all within comfortable walking distance of each other, and there's little need to use the local buses, which connect the hospital with the bus station and the suburbs. Prizren currently has three bus lines, with services every hour between 06:00 and 19:40. Tickets cost a flat €0,30 and can be bought on board. The three bus lines are:

Line 1 Arbana (northwest) via the bus station to the hospital (south);

Line 2 Petrova (northeast) via the bus station to the hospital (south);

Line 3 Dardani (Jaglenica, northeast) via the bus station to the hospital (south).

Long-distance buses

A number of travel agencies run buses to destinations in Kosovo, the surrounding countries and more distant emigrant destinations. Buses generally are well-kept, air-conditioned and relatively cheap to use. Prizren's bus station is the node for nearly all buses, and is situated just a few minutes walk west of the city centre on Rruga De Rada. The bus station has limited services; a bus information kiosk (tel. +377 44 67 91 60, open 08:00-16:00, closed Sat, Sun) and a few kiosks selling snacks. There is no luggage office. Tickets can be bought on the bus, or in advance from the relevant bus company office at the bus station (for Vector see *Travel agents*). The *Prizren In Your Pocket* bus timetable lists all major domestic and international buses that arrive and depart. Only some village minibus services depart from elsewhere in Prizren, as noted in the timetable.

Adio Tours A-1, Rr. De Rada, tel. +381 29 23 69. Also in Pristina (tel. +381 38 22 66 43) and Belgrade (+381 11 328 87 07).

Alpar Turizm A-1, Rr. De Rada (bus station), tel. +381 29 22 22 09, goldtours2@hotmail.com, www.goldtours-ks.com. ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00.

Bashkimi Reisen A-1, Rr. De Rada (bus station), tel. +377 44 11 15 24. ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00.

Halimaj Reisen A-1, Rr. De Rada (bus station), tel. +377 44 15 22 63. ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00.

Kushtrimi-NM Gjakova, tel. +377 44 15 63 32, kushtrimi-nm@hotmail.com.

Merkatori Gjilan, tel. +377 44 15 41 00, merkatr@hotmail.com, www.merkatori.com.

Metropol A-1, Rr. De Rada, tel. +377 44 61 48 14/+377 44 68 38 78.

Shpejtimi A-1, Rr. De Rada (bus station), tel. +381 29 27 16 42, shpejtimi-thr@hotmail.com, www.shpejtimi.net. ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00.

Zhur Tours A-1, Rr. De Rada (bus station), tel. +377 44 12 65 27. ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00.

Driving & Parking

With all sights within walking distance of the main square, and a warren of narrow, winding streets, Prizren's centre is decidedly and deliciously car-unfriendly. It's best to walk, leaving your car at the **guarded parking** by the Alhambra restaurant and by the Oltas Pension. **Driving** in Kosovo is the best way to get around. Roads and signposting is generally good, though always be aware of possible potholes, wandering livestock and mad drivers overtaking in impossible places.

Bus schedule

From Prizren				To Prizren				
Days	Dep.	Arr.	City	Dep.	Arr.	Duration	Ticket	Company
12345-7	09:00	17:30	BELGRADE*	12:00	19:30	8,5hrs	€18	Adio Tours
1234567	21:30	05:30	BELGRADE*	21:30	06:00	8,5hrs	€18	Adio Tours
1234567	08:00	09:00	DRAGASH*	07:00	08:00	1hr	€2	
1234567	07:00	10:00	DURRES	18:00	21:00	3hrs	€15	Bashkimi Reisen, Zhur Tours, Halimaj Reisen etc.
1234567	05:30	07:00	FERIZAJ/ UROŠEVAC	12:30	14:00	1,5hrs	€4	Vector
1234567	13:15	14:45	FERIZAJ/ UROŠEVAC	09:15	10:45	1,5hrs	€4	Merkatori
1234567	Every hour from 06:30- 18:30		GJAKOVA/ ĐAKOVICA	Every hour from 06:30- 18:30		1hr	€2	Kushtrimi-NM; Kasumi Tours; Zhur Reisen etc.
1234567	13:15	16:00	GJILAN/ GNJILANE	08:00	10:45		€5	Merkatori
1234567	13:00	06:00	ISTANBUL	17:00	11:00	18hrs	€40	Alpar Turizm
1234567	Every 1-2 hours between 07:00 and 19:25		MAMUSA/ MAMUŠA	Every 1-2 hours between 06:00 and 17:00		<1hr	€1,50	Mamusha Trans; Drini Reisen
1234567	17:00	21:00	NOVI PAZAR	06:00	10:00	4hrs	€10	Benko Tours
1234567	At 06:50, 09:40, 10:45, 13:40, 14:40 and 17:40		PEJA/ PEĆ	At 06:40; 09:45; 10:30; 13:15; 14:45; 17:15		2,5hrs	€4	Halimaj Reisen, Monika
1234567	Every 30mins from 05:30- 18:00		PRISHTINA/ PRIŠTINA	Every 30mins from 06:00- 19:45		2hrs	€4	Bashkimi Reisen, Zhur Tours, Halimaj Reisen, Shpejtimi etc.
1234567	Departs when full, between 06:00 and 18:00		RECANA#	Departs when full, between 06:00 and 19:30		<1hr	€0,50	ZhupaTrans, Gimí Reisen
12345--	05:30	09:00	SKOPJE/ SHKUP##	11:30	15:00	3,5hrs	€9	Vector
1234567	09:00	12:00	SKOPJE/ SHKUP##	16:00	19:00	3,5hrs	€9	Vector
1234567	13:00	01:00	SOFIA	23:00	11:00	12hrs	€ 35	Alpar Turizm
1234567	06:30	10:00	TIRANA	06:30###	10:00	3hrs	€10	Metropol
1234567	16:30	19:30	TIRANA	15:00	18:00	3hrs	€10	Metropol
1234567	07:00	10:00	TIRANA*)	20:00	23:00	3hrs	€10	Bashkimi Reisen
1234567	08:00	16:30	ULCINJ/ ULQIN	07:00	15:30	8,5hrs	€20	Vector
1234567	20:00	05:00	ULCINJ/ ULQIN	19:00	05:00	8,5hrs	€20	Vector

Schedule correct at time of publishing. Ticket prices are one-way; return fares may be relatively cheaper. Times and prices may change, so confirm before departure.

* Travels from Dragash via Prizren, Gracanica, Pristina, Mitrovica, Kraljevo, Cacak to Belgrade, and back. ** Minibuses depart from outside the bus station. *** Summer only.

Minibuses depart when full, approximately every hour, from the Marash district bridge. The bus continues to Kushnikova. ## Outbound buses stop at Skopje's bus station and continue to Skopje airport on request. ### The 06:30 bus from Tirana to Prizren departs on odd days only.

*) Enquire in advance.

Bus routes to Albania

The new highway leading from Prizren to the Albanian coast has dramatically cut travel times and makes several interesting travel routes possible. Regular, fast buses now ply the Prizren-Tirana route daily.

An alternative and more adventurous route leads from Gjakova, near Prizren, to Shkodra in Northern Albania, using the magnificent Lake Koman ferry ride, which is possibly the most scenic ferry ride in southern Europe. The carferry sails from Fierza in the east to Koman and back every morning, passing magnificent mountain landscapes and towering rock walls. The ferry has a café, but the best views are from the top deck; dress warm as it can be very cold at any time of year.

A minibus departs daily at 05:00 from Gjakova bus station, reaching Lake Koman around 06:30, in time for the 07:00 two-hour ferry sailing. The minibus then continues to Shkodra, arriving at about 10:30. Travelling east, a minibus leaves Shkodra at 07:00 daily, boarding the ferry at 11:00, and continuing after the two-hour trip to Bajram Curri (arrive 13:00, there's a connecting minibus to Valbona) and Gjakova (arriving at 14:00). Tickets cost €10 from Gjakova to Shkodra, or €3 to Lake Koman (to change for a minibus heading to Tirana). You can also get off earlier and hitch to Bajram Curri to visit the alpine Valbona valley; minibuses to Valbona depart daily in the early afternoon. To enquire about seat reservations, ask an Albanian-speaker to call Mr. Rexha of Miroci Reisen at +377 44 16 51 27.

Trains

Although there is a railway connecting Prizren to the functioning Pristina-Peja line, it's unfortunately no longer used for passenger services. There are plans to reinstate the line, but the money is currently lacking. Kosovo's railway hub at Fushë Kosovë, a few kilometres west of Pristina, has services to Peja and Skopje. See the *Pristina In Your Pocket* city guide at www.pristina.inyourpocket.com for more details.

Travel agents

Adriatik Sheshi i Lidhjes Shqiptare të Prizrenit, tel. +377 44 30 52 57.

Gold Tours Rr. Remzi Ademi 31, tel. +377 44 14 83 21/+381 29 22 22 09 (bus station), goldtours2@hotmail.com.

Vector Rr. Remzi Ademaj, tel. +381 29 24 26 91/+381 29 24 45 37, vector_ak@hotmail.com, www.vectortravelclub.com. ▶ Open 08:00 - 18:00.



Regional crafts for sale at a fair

Mail & Phones

Internet access

Internet is a recent arrival in Kosovo, and several businesses in and around Prizren now have websites. Free wifi access for guests/clients is available at a number of places in the city centre, including Barcode, Café Haus and Shadow, and at the Centrum, Residence, Oltas and Alvida hotels.

Mobile phones

Kosovo's mobile phone operators use a variety of international prefixes, so take care when you call a local mobile phone. The **Vala 900** mobile phone network, run by PTK (www.ptkonline.com), uses Monaco's international code, +377 44, while the independent operator **IPKO** (www.ipko.com) uses Slovenia's code, +386 49. Two new virtual operator offer cheaper rates, with **D3 Mobile** (www.d3-mobile.com) using +386 43 and **Z-Mobile** (www.zmobileonline.com) using prefix +377 45. Buying a local prepaid SIM card is cheap and easy, no ID is required. New SIM cards cost around €5 and can be used immediately. Top-up vouchers are widely available at kiosks and shops and come in various values.

Post

The mail in Kosovo is run by the PTK (www.postaekosoves.net). Their post offices handle mail, parcels, EMS parcel service, and telephone calls to national and international numbers.

Telephones

PTK (www.ptkonline.com) is responsible for Kosovo's fixed-line telephone connections. To phone to a Prizren land line from abroad, dial +381 for Kosovo, 29 (for Prizren) and the six-digit subscriber number. To dial abroad from Prizren, dial 00 followed by the country code and subscriber number.

Card-operated **public telephones** can be found around town. Phone cards come in values from €3.50 upwards and can be bought from post offices and kiosks; user instructions are written in English.

Postal rates

	<20g	Packages 0.5-1kg
Kosovo	€0,20	€1,40
Region	€0,70	€8,70
Europe	€0,70	€10,70
Asia/Africa	€1,70	€14,70
Other	€2,20	€19

City codes

When calling from abroad or roaming, prefix with +381 and drop any first zero.

Gjakova	390
Gjilan	280
Ferizaj	029
Mitrovica	028
Peja	039
Pristina	038
Prizren	029

Prizren's modest shopping scene has changed in recent years, and although the variety does not match Pristina by far, you can find most of what you need now, plus a few surprises. Textile, shoes, jewellery and furniture are mainly imported from Turkey. Gold and silver articles are also made locally by skilled craftsmen and are a Prizren specialty (see also the Filigran feature), as are items like Prizren cloth, knives, embroidery and other folk handcrafts. Note that credit cards are not widely accepted yet - bring cash on your shopping spree.



Traditional embroidery at Kosovsko Kolo

Books

Headway D-3, Rr. Saracët, tel. +386 49 13 96 14. The town's best bookshop has a limited selection of English classics. Opposite the Halveti tekke. ▶ Open 09:00 - 17:00. Closed Sun.

Computers & Office supplies

Cleon C-4, Rr. Ismet Jashari Kumanova. Well-stocked PC and office supply shop. Also sells funky KFOR parking signs. ▶ Open 09:00 - 19:00. Closed Sun.

Intersoft Computers C-3, Rr. Shuaip Spahiu, tel./fax +381 29 22 51 18, info@intersoft-a.com, www.intersoft-a.com. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00. Closed Sun.

Media Market C-3, Rr. Shuaip Spahiu, tel. +377 44 21 62 09, shahin.skeja@arthousepr.com. ▶ Open 09:00 - 19:00. Closed Sun. [cc]

Fashion & Shoes

Clothes, shoes and accessories boutiques can be found around Shadërvan square and along Rruga Adem Jashari.

Adidas D-3, Sheshi Shadërvan, tel. +386 43 72 50 84. Official Adidas store, with original clothes and shoes. ▶ Open 09:00 - 21:00. Sun 11:30 - 15:30. [cc]

Burda D-3, Sheshi i Dëshmorëve, tel. +381 29 23 12 61. Fashion for men and women. ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00. Closed Sun.

Cool D-3, Sheshi Shadërvan, tel. +377 44 20 44 53. ▶ Open 09:00 - 20:00. Closed Sun.

J&C Art D-3, Rr. Vratat Shqiptare, tel. +381 29 22 57 94. Original Levi's denim products. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00. Closed Sun. [cc]

Little Big D-3, Rr. Vratat Shqiptare, tel. +381 29 22 50 33. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00. Closed Sun. [cc]

United Colours of Benetton D-3, Rr. Remzi Ademi. An outlet store of the famous Italian fashion label. ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:00. Closed Sun. [cc]

Gifts & Souvenirs

It's easy to find souvenirs in the city centre: jewellery, handmade carpets, traditional scarves, locally painted scenes of Prizren, and more.

Arta C-3, Rr. Remzi Ademi, tel. +377 44 23 07 58. Traditional handmade clothes, carpets and other items. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00. Closed Sun.

Kosovsko Kolo C-3, Rr. Sahat Kulla, tel. +377 44 75 83 58/+386 49 33 69 13. Ethnic harmony in practice, this small Bosnian-run tailors shop makes traditional festive traditional costumes, including wedding attire and circumcision ritual clothes, for all Prizrenites, whether Serb, Albanian, Turkish or Bosnian. Souvenir-hunters can find the Albanian pis eggshell-hat on sale here for €4. ▶ Open 09:00 - 17:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Souvenir Shop C-3, Rr. Shuaip Spahiu, tel. +377 44 17 34 11. Imported Asian gifts, interior design accessories, jewellery, bags and more. ▶ Open 09:00 - 20:00. Closed Sun.

Photography

Foto Agroni A-2, Rr. De Rada, tel. +381 29 22 61/+377 44 91 78 42, fotoagroni@hotmail.com, www.fotoagroni.com. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00. Closed Sun.

Foto Artan & Tarkan D-3, Rr. Farkatarët, tel. +377 44 13 49 04. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00. Closed Sun.

Foto Sharri D-3, Sheshi Shadërvan 35, tel. +386 49 11 90 35, vetonv@yahoo.com. ▶ Open 09:00 - 19:00. Closed Sun.

Shopping centres

On the outskirts of town, a 20-25 minute walk from the city centre, the shopping centres offer Prizren's most modern retail experience, most of them with good supermarkets and several accepting credit cards. They have children's playgrounds, restaurants and cafés, and are a popular place for families on weekends.

Abi Center I-3, Rr. Bill Clinton, tel. +381 29 22 82, info@abi-center.com, www.abi-center.com. A large modern shopping complex, with a supermarket and a good toy shop. ▶ Open 08:00 - 23:00. [cc]

Bekteshi D-1/2, Rr. Fehmi Lladroviç. The best city-centre supermarket.

Ben-af A-1, Rr. Joni, tel. +381 29 24 22 31. ▶ Open 08:00 - 23:00. [cc]

Elkos I-4, Rr. William Walker, tel. +381 29 22 39 44. ▶ Open 08:00 - 23:00. [cc]

Viva Fresh Rr. Besim Shala, tel. +377 44 29 93 12. ▶ Open 08:00 - 23:00. [cc]

Sports

Alpina D-3, Rr. Remzi Ademi, tel. +377 44 11 33 77. Outdoor fashion, hiking boots and shoes. ▶ Open 09:00 - 19:00. Closed Sun. [cc]

Sporting D-3, Sheshi i Dëshmorëve, tel. +381 29 22 23 61, sporting_pz@hotmail.com, www.sportingsks.com.

Hiking boots, trainers, sports equipment ▶ Open 09:00 - 19:00. Closed Sun. [cc]

Banks

Banks are generally open from 09:00-17:00 on weekdays, with some opening earlier or closing later.

Banka Ekonomike Rr. Shuaip Spahiu, tel. +381 29 24 22 34, www.bekonomike.com.

Banka Kombëtare Tregtare Sheshi Shadërvan, tel. +381 29 22 39 10, www.bkt.com.al.

Banka për Biznes (BpB) Rr. Remzi Ademi, tel. +381 29 24 26 00, www.bpb-bank.com.

NLB Prishtina Sheshi i Lidhjes Shqiptare të Prizrenit, tel. +381 29 63 16 49, www.nlbprishtina-kos.com.

ProCredit Bank Rr. Zahir Pajaziti, tel. +381 29 24 31 49, www.procreditbank-kos.com.

Raiffeisen Bank Rr. Nëna Terezë 7, tel. +381 38 22 22, www.raiffeisen-kosovo.com.

TEB Bank Rr. Suzi Çelebi 41, tel. +381 29 23 22 23, www.teb-kos.com.

Dentists

Dr. Gezim Gashi Rr. Jusuf Gërvalla (Qendra Tregtare Ortakoll), tel. +377 44 13 99 20. ▶ Open 10:00 - 14:00; 16:00-19:00. Closed Sun.

EndoDont (Dr. Skender Shahini) Rr. Ismet Jashari Kumanova, tel. +377 44 19 01 79. ▶ Open 08:00 - 12:00, 13:00-16:00, Sat 08:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun.

Embassies

Kosovo's foreign representations are all to be found in Pristina. The most important ones are listed here, for the full overview see the listings in the *Pristina In Your Pocket* guide. Always call ahead to make an appointment before visiting.

Albania Rr. Mujo Ulqinaku 18, Pristina, tel. +381 38 24 82 08, mission.kosova@mfa.gov.al.

Austria Rr. Ahmet Krasniqi 22, Pristina, tel. +381 38 24 92 84, pristina-ob@bmfa.gv.at.

Belgium Rr. e Zagrebit 19, Pristina, tel. +381 38 51 76 98, office@bdb-pristina.org.

Bulgaria Rr. Ismail Qemali 47, Pristina, tel. +381 38 51 76 99, dbpristina@abv.bg.

China Rr. Ismail Qemali 47, Pristina, tel. +381 38 24 85 08, wang_wengang@mfa.gov.cn.

Croatia Rr. Mujo Ulqinaku 20, Pristina, tel. +381 38 22 39 78, croemb.pristina@mvepi.hr.

Czech Republic Rr. Ismail Qemali 31, Pristina, tel. +381 38 22 39 79, pristina@embassy.mrz.cz.

Finland Rr. Perandori Justinian 19, Pristina, tel. +386 43 73 70 00, sanomat.pri@formin.fi, www.finlandkoso.org.



The millstream in Marashi Park

Emergencies

Police, ambulance, fire tel. 911

France Rr. Ismail Qemali 67, Pristina, tel. +381 38 22 45 88 00, pristina-amba@diplomatie.gouv.fr.

Germany Rr. Azem Jashanica 17, Pristina, tel. +381 38 25 45 00, info@pris.auswaertiges-amt.de, www.pristina.diplo.de.

Italy Rr. Azem Jashanica 5, Pristina, tel. +381 38 24 49 25, segreteria.pristina@esteri.it.

Japan Rr. Rexhep Mala 43, Pristina, tel. +381 38 24 99 95, jplop@yahoo.com.

Macedonia Rr. 24 Maji, Pristina, tel. +381 38 24 74 62, macedonialaison@mail.net.mk, www.mfa.gov.mk.

Netherlands Rr. Ekrem Rexha 17, Pristina, tel. +381 38 22 46 10, nl_kosovo@yahoo.com.

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United Kingdom Rr. Ismail Qemali 6, Pristina, tel. +381 38 25 47 00, britishembassy.pristina@fco.gov.uk, www.ukinkosovo.fco.gov.uk.

USA Rr. Nazim Hikmet 30, Pristina, tel. +381 38 59 59 30 00, papristina@state.gov, <http://pristina.usmission.gov>.

Fitness

Lifefitness Rr. Martin Camaj, tel. +377 44 83 30 61. Modern fitness centre for gym, aerobic and yoga. ▶ Open 08:00 - 23:00, Sun 14:00 - 22:00. Membership €15 per month.

Football

One of Kosovo's most popular sports is football, often played on small fields with small teams.

Andra E-2, Rr. Enver Haradinaj, tel. +377 44 68 72 40. Football fields by the Lumbardhi river. Call to book ahead. ▶ €12 per hour.

Mali Petrol Prizren-Pristina road, km.1, tel. +377 44 94 40 67. ▶ €15 per hour.

Hairdressers

Erdo Rr. Remzi Ademi, tel. +377 44 14 00 13, erdo-ella@yahoo.com. Prizren's best ladies' hairdresser. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00. Closed Sun.

Frizzer Rojtore Berber D-2/3, Rr. Adem Jashari, tel. +377 44 26 58 91. Have a haircut with a view at this tiny glass-walled shed plonked in a small park. Strapping Balkan head and shoulder massages are performed too. ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00. Closed Sun.

Health

Regional Hospital of Prizren (Spitali i Regional i Prizrenit) I-5, tel. +381 29 22 22 22.



The Stone Bridge with the fortress

Opticians

Optika Jaki Rr. Ismet Jashari Kumanova 52, tel. +386 49 18 50 77. ▶ Open 09:00 - 19:00, Sat 14:00 - 19:00. Closed Sun.

Pharmacies

Prizren's pharmacies are reasonably well-equipped, selling a wide range over-the-counter medicines.

Adnan Rr. Remzi Ademi 87, tel. +377 44 50 29 10, ph.amar@live.com. ▶ Open 08:00 - 18:00, Sat 08:00 - 17:00. Closed Sun.

Centrum D-3, Rr. Saracët, tel. +377 44 14 11 33. ▶ Open 08:00 - 22:00. Closed Sun.

Remedia D-3, Rr. Remzi Ademi. ▶ Open 08:00 - 22:00, Sun 09:00 - 15:00.

Swimming pools

With the sea several hours away, join the locals on hot summer days at one of these pools.

OK pool Tel. +381 29 24 02 60, www.hotelok-ks.net. A pleasant indoor pool that available for non-guests too. ▶ Admission €3-5, free for hotel guests.

Solid pool (Bugalla) Suhareka-Pristina road, km15, tel. +377 44 11 33 93, www.solidshoes.com. Three pools beside a hotel in beautiful valley. ▶ Admission €1,5/1.

Univers pool Vermicë, tel. +377 44 40 15 52, www.univers-ks.eu.tt. The best pool in the region is attached to Hotel Univers near Lake Vermicë. A restaurant, café-bar, and shop are part of the complex. ▶ Admission €5, free for hotel guests.

Translators & Interpreters

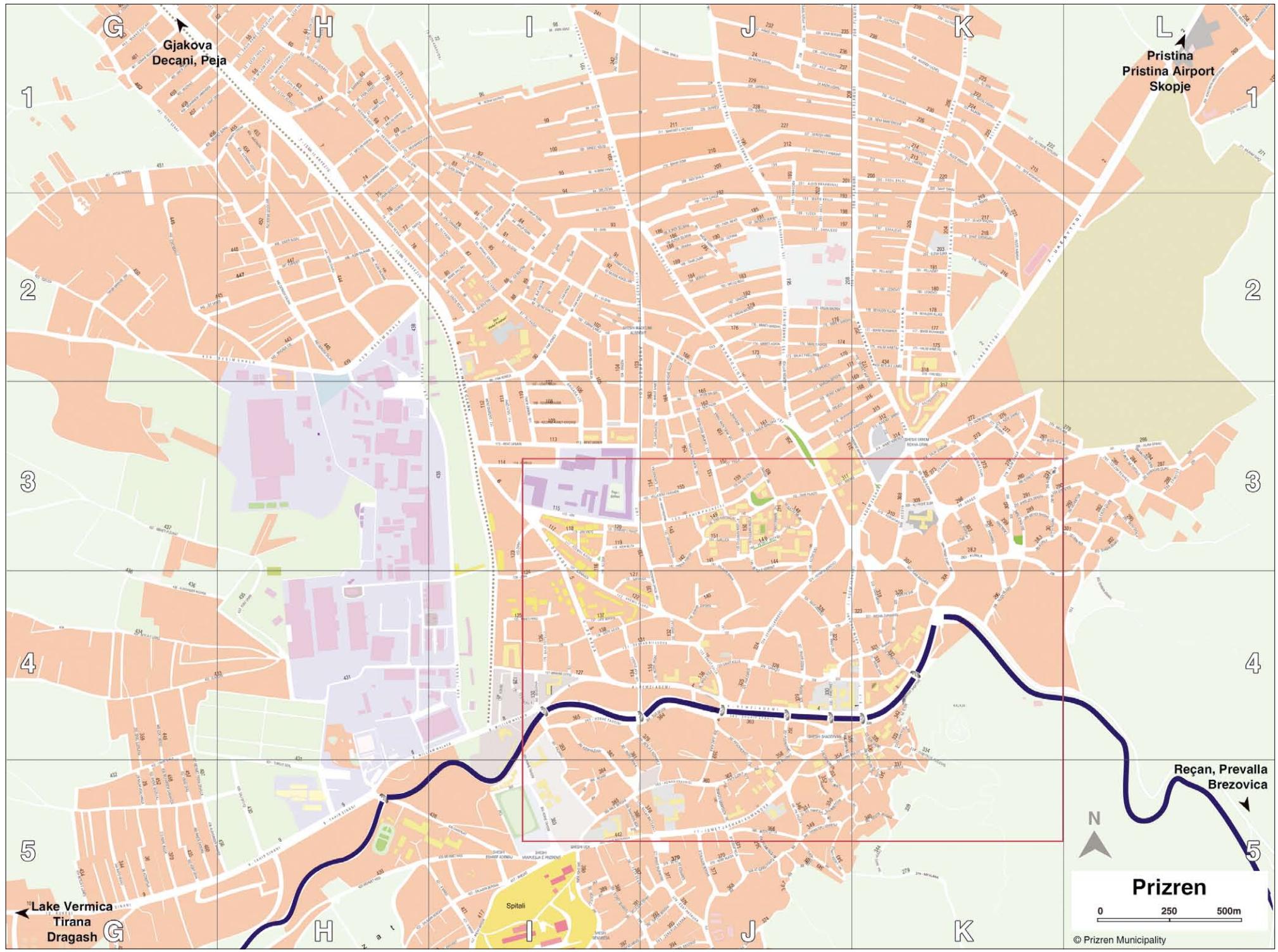
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A shoeshiner's case awaits customers



Prizren City Centre and Cultural Heritage

0 100 200 m

© Prizren Municipality



Legend:

1. Prizren fortress
2. Kérék Xhamia – Namazxhah
3. Suzi Çelebi's Mosque
4. Kukli Bej's Mosque
5. Gazi Mehmet Pasha's Mosque
6. Myderiz Ali Efendi's Mosque
7. Minaret of Arasta Mosque
8. Sinan Pasha Mosque
9. Emin Pashas Mosque
10. Tekke of Saraghane- Halveti Order
11. Rufa'i Tekke
12. Kaderi the Kurila Tekke
13. Cathedral of Helpful lady
14. Church of The Holy Virgin of Ljeviska
15. Cathedral Church of Christ the Saviour
16. Church of St Nicholas-Tutic's Church
17. Church of St George – Runovic's Church
18. Episcopal Church of St George
19. Turkish bath with Clock tower
20. Prizren Albanian League Museum
21. Gazi Mehmet Pasha's Bath
22. Adem Aga Gjon's House
23. House of Family Grazhd-Bilurdagu
24. Hysen Shehzade House
25. House of Family Mustafa
26. House of Family Arapi
27. Sheh Hasan's House
28. Gani Dukagjini's House
29. Tabakhane Mill
- Info tables of Monuments in Prizren



Abi Center	35	Centrum	37	Fox Pub	31	M-Pub	15	Regional Hospital
Adidas	35	Change	15	France	36	Macedonia	36	of Prizren
Adio Tours	32	China	36	Frizzer Rojtore	36	Mali Petrol	36	36
Adnan	37	Church of Our Lady		Berber	36	Marash district	21	Remedia
Albania	36	of Ljeviš	17	Furra Lombardhi	14	Marashi Park	20	Residence Vermica
Alhambra	13	City Hall	20	Gani Dukagjin'i's		Media Market	35	Rufa'i Tekke
Alpar Turizm	32	City park	20	Gazi Mehmet		Mena	12	12
Alpina	35	Cleon	35	Pasha's Mosque	16	Merkatori	32	Sarajevo
Alvida	12	Cool	35	Gazi Mehmet		Metropol	32	Sarachane Tekke
Ambient	13	Croatia	36	Pasha Hamam	10, 20	Molika	30	Scobar
Andra	36	Cultural Heritage		Germany	36	Mountain Motel	30	Shadow
Arasta	13	without Borders	19	Green market	35	Mullini	15	Sheh Hasan's
Arasta Minaret	16	Czech Republic	36	Hadum Mosque	29	Mullini i Pintollit	14	House
Archaeological		Dane Rent &		Halimaj Reisen	32	Municipal Court of		20
Museum	19	Service	31	Hani i Haraqisë	29	Prizren	37	Shëndeti
Arta	35	David's Pub	30	Hasi Jelton	11	Municipality of		14
Arxhena	27	Directorate		Headway	35	Prizren	37	Shpejtimi
Atrium Music		for Economic		Horse cart rides	21	Music High School	10	Sinan Pasha
Center	35	Development and		ICO	37	Mustafa (Pomaku)		Mosque
Aurora	14	Tourism	19	Inan Mahmuti	37	House	20	17
Austria	36	Dr. Gezim Gashi	36	Istithori e Protection of		Myderiz Ali Efendi		Ski Servis Borzani
Boni Keys	37	Ego	13	Monuments	19	Mosque	16	31
Bananaspit Plus	14	Ekspo-Arti	11	Intersoft		NATO Monument	21	Slovenia
Banka Ekonomike	36	Elkos	35	Computers	35	Netherlands	36	36
Banka Kombëtare		Embëltorja e		IPM	37	Nikollë Markaj	37	Switzerland
Tregtarë	36	qytetit	14	Italy	36	NLB Prishtina	36	Tabakhane Mill
Banka për Biznes	36	Emin Pasha's		J&C Art	35	Norway	36	Tabu Jazz
Bar 2000	15	Mosque	16	Japan	36	OK	12	TEB Bank
Barcode	15	EndoDont	36	Kaderi the Kurila		OK pool	37	Tirana
Bashkimi Reisen	32	Episcopal Church		Tekke	18	Old Timers Fest	11	12
Bea's	13	of St George	18	Kafic	15	Oltas Pension	12	Tour de Culture
Bektashi Tekke	29	Erdo	36	KEK	37	Optika Jaki	37	Turkey
Bekteshi	35	Erlind Kasemi	37	Kérék Mosque	16	OSCE Mission in		36
Belgium	36	Estrada	12	Kino Lombardi	10	Kosovo	37	United Colours of
Ben-af	35	EULEX	37	Kosovski Kolo	35	Picaso	15	Benetton
Beska	14	Europcar	32	Kukli Bej Mosque	16	Pizzeria Tina	31	United Kingdom
Bulgaria	36	Evropa	14	Kushtrimi-NM	32	Prizren Fortress	16	Univers pool
Burda	35	Extra	14	Lifefitness	36	ProCredit Bank	36	USA
Café Haus	15	Finland	36	Little Big	35	Radio Taxi Blue	32	Vector
Cathedral Church of		Filitrat	11	Lucky Cup	15	Radio Taxi Fortuna	32	Viva Fresh
Christ the Saviour	17	Foto Agroni	35	Lumbardhi valley	21	Radio Taxi OK	32	Woodlands Hotel
Cathedral of Our		Foto Artan &		M-Burger	13	Radio Taxi Prizreni	32	X-Haus
Lady of Perpetual		Tarkan	35	M-Burger		Raiffeisen Bank	36	Zambaku i Prizrenit
Succour	17	Foto Sharri	35					Zhur Tours

Street index for the Prizren city maps on pp.38-39 and 40-41

Adem Jashari	D-3	Bujar Godeni	D-3	Ismail Kryeziu	A-1	Pacja	C-1	Sheshi Pavarsia	F-1
Adnan Krasniqi	B-4	Bujtnat	C-4	Ismet Jashari Kumanova	C-4	Petrat Bytyci	C-1	Sheshi Qendresa	I-5
Adriatiku	E-1	De Rada	A-2	Jani Vreto	A-1	Pushkaret	C-3	Sheshi Ramë Bilaca	D-2
Agim Shala	F-1	Dëshmorët e Prekazit	B-1	Joni	A-1	Ramadan Zaskod	E-4	Sheshi Shadervan	D-3
Aleksander Flemingu	C-4	Dimitrije Tucovic	E-4	Josip Rela	C-4	Remzi Ademaj	C-3	Sheshi UCK	A-4
Ali Dida	A-1	Dragomani	E-1	Jusuf Gervalla	B-1	Reshat Karagiud	B-2	Sheshi Viktimit e Tivartit	B-4
Ali Pashë Elbasani	E-1	Dzemali Bledic	A-1	Kalaja	E-4	Rugova	I-5	Sheshi Vrapuejisa e	
Anarka	D-1	Eddi Durham	J-2	Kamber Bruti	E-1	Sahat Kulla	C-3	Prizrenit	I-5
Anton Cetta	C-4	Ejup Statovci	B-3	Korabi	A-3	Saladin Braha	C-2	Shkelzen Dragaj	F-1
Ardian Zurnaxhiu	D-2	Emin Paša	E-2	Kosova	E-1	Sami Frasheri	E-2	Shuaip Spahi	C-3
Ardianet	C-1	Enver Haradinaj	E-2	Kurila	F-1	Saracët	C-3	Suzi Odebi	B-3
Asian Berisha	D-4	Fahredin Hoti	J-2	Lazër Lumezi	D-4	Shahadin Berisha	B-4	Sylejman Trottola	C-1
Astrit Suli	D-1	Fakl Enrrüs	C-3	Lekë Matrëngë	B-4	Shën Alibani	D-4	Sylejman Vokshi	I-5
Avni Rrustemi	C-1	Farkaterrët	D-3	Mark Barleti	D-4	Sheshi Alja Izetbegovic	A-3	Tahir Mehaj	D-2
Azem Bejtë	B-1	Fehmi Lladroci	C-2	Mark Kajnari	D-3	Sheshi Arbi	E-1	Tahir Sinani	I-4
Azem Hajdari	B-4	Gjallica	C-1	Martin Camaj	C-1	Sheshi Ataturk	F-1	Teodor Haxhili	D-4
Bajo Topulli	A-3	Gjeravica	B-2	Mbetresështë Teutë	D-2	Sheshi Beyler	B-2	Themistokli Gërmenji	D-4
Bajrakli	E-2	Gjrokastra	B-1	Mbreti Zog	D-2	Sheshi Bill Clinton	A-1	Vajzat e Sult	D-4
Behari	A-4	Gustav Majer	D-1	Medine	D-3	Sheshi Dëshmorët	D-3	Vatrati Shqiptare	E-3
Beran Gashi	I-5	Hadi Kantarxhiu	C-1	Mehmet Paša	E-3	Sheshi Ekreml Rexha-Drinki	K-3	Vellezërit Frasheri	B-1
Berati	D-4	Hafiz Ismail Hakki	E-2	Mentor Krasniqi	D-4	Sheshi Eshref Ademaj	I-5	Wesley Clark	A-1
Besëlidhja	A-3	Halil Berisha	B-4	Musa Shehzade	F-1	Sheshi Fehmi Agani	D-1	William Walker	A-3
Besim Ndrecë	D-4	Hasan Prishtina	B-1	Necat Matranci	B-4	Sheshi Gjergj Kastrioti	D-1	Xhemë Gostivari	C-1
Besnik Muçaj	B-3	Haxhi Zeqo	E-1	Njazi Alihani	E-1	Skenderbeu	D-1	Xhemili Fluku	B-2
Beteja e Kosharës	B-3	Hoxhë Tahsimi	A-3	Nikolla Tesla	C-3	Sheshi Lidhja Shqiptare	E-2	Ymiridi Cengaj	I-5
Beteja e Llapushnikut	F-1	Husen Redžić	F-2	Norë Kelmedji	I-5	Sheshi Liria	D-3	Yonus Emre	F-1
Beteja e Vrinit	C-2	Hysen Rexhepi	C-3	Nuri Sherifi	D-3	Sheshi Luan Haradimaj	C-3	Zahir Pajaziti	D-1
Betim Berisha	I-5	Ibrahim Lutfiu	A-3	Pal Paluca	D-4	Sheshi Madeline Albright	I-2	Zanat	A-1
Brahim Osmanaj	D-1	Illaz Kuka	C-3	Papa Gjon Pali i II	C-4	Sheshi Nene Tereza	C-3	Zara	A-1

All street names are preceded with *Ruga* (Rr.), except for squares: *sheshi*.



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