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# KOSOVO

the untold story...



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# VISIT KOSOVO

## Day 1. Prishtina

After breakfast meet the group in the lobby and depart for a sightseeing tour of Prishtina. Kosova National Library represent a modern architectural design. Mother Teresa statue born Gonxhe Bojaxhiu (Albanian born humanist and Nobel Peace Prize 1979). George Kastrioti Skanderbeg statue (15th century Albanian lord who defended country against the Ottoman Empire for more than two decades). Open Air Archeological Park artifacts from Neolithic period, Kosova Museum built by Austrians for the Turkish army in 1898, has an extensive collection of archaeological and ethnological artifacts, including the Neolithic Goddess on a Throne (4000 BC) terracotta, Çarshi Mosque a Prishtina oldest building constructed on 15th century by Turkish Sultan Bajazit. Academy Building a 19th century Ottoman konak style private houses, Clock Tower 26 metre high built by Jashar Pasha on 1764, Fatih Mosque or Imperial Mosque was built on 1461 under the Turkish Sultan Mehmed II Fatih, The Great Hammam bath complex built in 1470 and is graced with 15 domes with small holes to let light stream in. Ethnographic Museum Emin Gjiku complex is a extremely well preserved building from 18th Century and it's the only original building left in old bazaar area. The exhibition is built round four main themes that represent the circle of life: birth, life, death and intangible heritage. You can witness some folk art, the way of living, marriage, folk dressing, and death rituals and so on. Overnight.

## Day 2. Outskirt of Prishtina

Gadime Brezovica Breakfast and departure. On 5 km from Prishtina its located Sultan Murat Mausoleum built by Sultan Pajazit, place where Turkish Sultan Murat was killed during Kosova Battle of 1389 where Christian Coalition forces of the Balkan Nation's fight against Ottoman army, The Monument to the Kosova Heroes (in memory of 1389 battle). A few kilometers from Prishtina is a Gracanica Monastery orthodox religion object completed on 1321. Trip continues to Ulpiana ancient city build-up in the 2nd century at the time of Trojan King rule (the most beautiful city of Illyrian Dardania). Items found such as coins, ceramic dishes, weapons, jewelry has been displayed at Kosova Museum. Trip continues to ruins of Novobërda (Novus Mons) XIV-XV century, a medieval fortress and metropolis at that time. Novo Brdo silver is known by its argentum glame (an alloy of silver with 1/6-1/3 gold). Marble Cave in Gadime 25 km from Prishtina and contains natural treasures which are made from Stalactite and Stalagmites with particular Crystal's and layers of multicoloured marble Excursion towards Brezovica Ski center Sharr national park and the most challenging ski resort for alps discipline also for a hiking, rock climbing and other leisuers. Trip continues to Prizren with a option for overnight stay at Prevalc recreative center.

## Day 3. Prizren Gjakova

Breakfast. Departure for Prizren (5km). Visit Stone Bridge symbol of ottoman

Prizren, build in 1534 by Ali Bag. Gazi Mehmet Pasha Hammam Turkish bath build in 1534 XVI century and presents an architec tonic and cultural work, Sinan Pasha Mosque Prizren most prominent mosque, build on 1615, Albanian League of Prizren Museum the most historical sites and is a place where Albanian patriots gathered on 10 June 1878 to start the political, military and cultural struggle against the Ottoman Empire. Prizren Fortress ancient fortress which has been a place for defence a refuge since prehistoric times. Visit of Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Chatolic church from 1870 with three naves and marble-clad columns hold a frescoes above the door depict the medieval Christian Albanian hero Skenderbeg. Temple of Our Holy of Ljevish dates back to the 9th 11th century as a Byzantine church (unique architectural design and UNESCO World Heritage protected). Prizren is famous also for Filigran ancient craft that uses fine, mostly silver and gold thread to produce astonishingly intricate and beautiful, lace-like works of art. Old part of Prizren it's surrounded by so many shops selling Filigran product, originally made in town. Trip continues to Gjakova city (35km). During a drive visit of Tailors' Bridge 18th century a grand stone bridge of eleven arches said to have been built three hundred years ago by the tailors of Djakova and Prizren as a very important link to very strategic trade road known as a Via Egnatia (road constructed by Romans in the 2nd century BC. It crossed the Illyricum, Macedonia and Greece and European Turkey. Visit continues followed by visiting a Traditional old shopping center in downtown of Gjakova as a old kosovan traditional architecture, Hadum Mosque famous mosque dating from 16th century, Bektashi Tekke most mystical Bektashi order, visit old traditional Feudal house and Gjakova regional Museum collection of traditional crafts and clothes. Overnight.

## Day 4. Deçani Peja

Breakfast and departure for Peja towards Deçani. Visit of Haxhi Zeka's Kulla at Isniq situated at the foot of the Accursed Mountains at a distance of 12km from Peja traditional Albanian stone houses dating back to the turbulent last decades of the Ottoman Empire, Deçani Monastery built between 1327 and 1335 by the Serbian medieval king St. Stephen of Deçani and was dedicated to the Ascension of the Lord. The monastery is settled in the picturesque valley of the Bistrica. Trip continues to The Monastery of the Patriarchate of Peja it features outstanding examples of paintings from the 13th to the 17th century, Rugova Valley discover the most challenging nature attraction by walking, hiking, fishing, cycling, alpinism and climbing. Day end with a lunch at Burim at the biggest trout pool in Kosova. Departure for Prishtina.

## SPECIAL INTEREST TOURS:

### Wine Tour

Taste famous Kosova wine with a long tradition since Illyrian period. Learn the history of wine-making in the region, taste and share your opinion at Stone Castle Winery.

Mirusha Waterfalls It is situated on the riverbanks of Mirusha, cascades between

the lakes create waterfalls that have overwhelming sight and present a very good tourism attraction.

Hiking Rugova Valley (three to four hour hike through local communities in Rugova Valley) Luboteni Mountains (guided hike through the Luboteni Mountains, lunch near the glacial Lake of Livadica, situated 2,173 meters above sea level)

## BIKING

### 1. Kulla

A unique atmosphere inside of vernacular fortified stone houses called by local residents as Kulla. An impressive evidence of the way of life of the local communities; the pride of a traditional society terribly exposed to conflicts and wars occurred in nineteenth and twentieth century; insight of history of men dominated society, whereby it was ruled by the medieval law called the Kanun of Lek Dukagjini

### 2. Decan Monastery

As rarely found elsewhere, the Dukagjini region represents a significant religious diversity. Decani Monastery was built in the mid-14th century for the king Stefan Decanski and is also his mausoleum. The church is distinguished by its imposing size and Romanesque and Early Gothic structure and design. Apart from the extensive and well-preserved fresco cycles the interior features the original 14th-century stone templon, the throne of the hegumen and the carved wooden sarcophagus of the founder King Stefan.

Çoku Mosque built in 1571 represents the earliest Islamic evidence in the region. The mosque preserves a large number of authentic documents of the 16 and 17 century.

### 3. Tariqa Tekke of Sheh Xhaferi is a testimony to other Islamic influences in the region.

A tariqa (or tariqah; Arabic: "way, path) is the term for a school or order of Sufism, or especially for the mystical teaching and spiritual practices of such an order with the aim of seeking "ultimate truth".

A tariqa has a Sheh (guide) who plays the role of leader. The members or followers of a tariqa are known as muridin meaning "desirous", viz. "desiring the knowledge of knowing God and loving God"

## HIKING

### 4. Hiking in Gjeravica

One of the best ways to experience Junik is by taking a hike in Gjeravica. Gjeravica is the second highest mountain peak in the Bjeshket e Nemura and the Dinaric Alps chain, after Maja Jezercë. It has an elevation of 2,658 m. Gjeravica is the most prominent peak in the eastern part of the Bjeshket e Nemuna Mountain. Its East side differs significantly from the West side, being milder, less rocky, containing many meadows. It is definitely a place to visit for those who like long hikes in remote areas, or for those who like to go "off the beaten track."