



**ALWAYS LIVE THE MOMENT**



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## **Introduction**

The region of south, specifically the city of Prizren, has a tremendous history of traditional crafts. Being a city where over the centuries different cultures and religions co-existed, it goes without saying the traditional crafts have had their important position in the lives of its inhabitants and have seen significant development over the time. The craft of filigree should be mentioned as one of the most widespread and recognized, and almost the only one that continues to exist in the present days, even being as one of the most attractive and useful craft activities for city residents.

Only some of the most prominent and widespread traditional crafts were included in this Guide, as well as the most important traditional games. When it comes to festivals, they have undeniably earned their place in country's culture. These festivals tackle various fields of arts and present a good opportunity be it for the development of the art in the country or for the tourist attraction and their acquaintance with country's culture. Above all, one should highlight the DokuFestin, as one of the most important and renown festivals in Kosovo, where documentaries from all over the worlds take part in competition.

In addition, this Guide provides accurate addresses on where and how to taste the night life, as well as other important information for your stay.



# **TRADITIONAL HANDICRAFTS**

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## SILVERSMITHS

Filigree is one of the handicrafts that made history in Prizren, and at the same time made Prizren to be known by others. Today silversmiths mostly craft new models made of gold and silver in line with new demands of buyers. In addition to private shops, silver jewelry products are also crafted at the 'Filigran' factory.

## TAILORS

Using a needle, thread and twisted braid, red, blue, black or yellow fabric, they would craft the national wardrobe: long dollama dresses, mitan, xhamadan, shirts, etc., made of velvet or silk. The attire would be embroidered using gold, silver or silk thread.



## WEAPON MAKERS

Rifles, swords and razors were produced using forging, smelting, chiseling, "savat", filigree and granulate techniques. They were embroidered in gold and silver. Long rifles and pistols were mainly produced during the XVIII and XIX century.

## WOODCARVERS

They would craft wood cases, decorative boxes, distaffs, frames, items for house interiors etc. Majority of these items carved in wood do not exist anymore as a result of demolishing of old traditional houses.



## **WEAVING AND EMBROIDERY**

The models were mainly created based on natural shapes of flowers and their leaves (rose, tulip, violet, hyacinth and carnation). Geometric decorations were of round, triangle, square, quadrilateral and small rhomboid shape in the form of a net, etc. Among the zoomorphic motifs the most preferred ones were birds, snakes and peacocks in natural or schematic shapes.

## **SADDLERS**

Created from leather and meshin: belts, narrow men's belts with buckles, embroidered with indented circles; bandoliers, embroidered with a metal buckle; krygali traditional moccasin-like footwear, made of buffalo skin. They also produced paraphernalia for riding horses and carts such as: bashibozsaddles, wrapped with blangé or rogan; çibuksaddle, with horizontal stripes placed at set distances between each other and filled with wool or cotton through a pipe made of cornelian berry tree; kuskun saddle, with a leather strap at the end of the tail and knee support, adapted for mountainous conditions.

## **POTTERY MAKERS**

One of the more characteristic products of this category were acoustic pipes. Except for these pipes, other products were: honey, jam and butter pots; pans, water canisters, flower pots, etc. Dishes for washing coffee cups were also specific.

## **BLACKSMITHS**

They used to make different agricultural tools and of the kind used in daily life, such as: ironing irons, tongs, spades, support for stubs used in fireplaces, skewers with supports, lamp holders (asmallamba), buttons for door décor, door bolt and knocker, stars for bolt mechanisms and çokane, window bars, chains, collars for shepherd dogs, iron fences.

## **KAZAZËT – SILK WORKERS**

Their products were the following: silk cloths; pyryngjyk cloths; cradle and table covers; brides veils (duvak); tarabullus belts; dysHEME (catholic women sheets for strolling); rizaçutura, adorned with tirëfor engagements and for those invited to festivities; aprons and skutaçe (side cloth) of various models, especially vislake with line up flowers: tulip, roses, lilies,; white bohçe (aprons); sheets for Christian burials; tarabullus waist scarf, decorated or non-decorated.











# **TRADITIONAL GAMES**

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## PEHLIVANA

This game is of international competitive character. With the exception of the midriff sport kit they wear, the remaining parts of players body is left uncovered and oiled. Before the wrestling match begins they carry out a ceremonial visit to homage areas. The competitions were held during the May festivities.

## HORSE RACING

Was a widespread sport in the Gora region usually performed in upper class weddings. The first place would be awarded an ox, ram or sheep. The host of the wedding would tie a strip between the horns of the ox or ram and place an ottoman gold coin on the strip.



## KAPUÇA (HATTERS)

It is played by two groups of 6 -12 people. Before the draw, two masters pick their teams. Points of the game are called dhi (goats). The first team that reaches 101 dhi, will be the winner. The victors stand up and sing the losers a variety of songs, traditionally also known as kengëkapuçash (hatters' songs).

## STONE THROW

It is a competitive game usually played by shepherds. The stone thrown weighs up to 7.5kg. The manner of stone throwing: hand palm lifted above head height; using both hands and throwing it backwards between the legs; the stone is lifted using both hands, and standing on one leg only the stone is thrown sideways; with both hands the stone is thrown over the head.

## BZZZ

It is played by 3- 10 persons. A draw determines who will enter the center of the circle. One of the surrounding people, making a “bzzzz” sound, would slap the hand of the person at the center of the circle. Following this, they all attempt to confuse the central player by pointing toward his face all “buzzing” continuously, so as to prevent him from finding out who hit him.

## GUXHAZ

This is shepherds’ game. There’s a stick for each player; a wooden ball called guxhë. In the middle of the field is the baxha, around it, at a distance of 2 to 3 m, pikthat (points), one less than the number of players, because one of them must stand behind guxhe. He then has to send the ball to the baxha which is protected by the player and has to run and take over one of the piktha. Whoever loses their piktha, has to take their place behind guxhë.



## SHKODRAZ

The game is played by 4, 6, 8 or even 10 people. Prior to the game beginning, there is a draw to determine who the carriers and who the riders will be, who are then placed two by two, facing each-other. One of the riders has a ball in front of them, which he tosses to his friend, who has to receive it, to prevent it from falling to the ground. The swap takes place when the ball falls on the ground. There are rules relating to how the carriers stand, otherwise they will be punished.





# **FESTIVALS - FAIRS**

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## **DOKUFEST**

International Documentary and Short Film Festival, DokuFest, began in 2002 with the showing of 20 movies, mainly from Kosovo and neighboring countries at the only cinema of Prizren. The festival achieved an increase of the number of films shown, workshops, debates and guests. It is engaged in implementation of projects that are related to the production of documentaries for promotion of human rights and democratic values through film. Its sole mission is to promote art, culture and education through organizing cultural events, such as the International Documentary and Short Film Festival, photo exhibitions, paintings exhibitions, various workshops and audio-visual performances.



## **SCULPFEST/SCULP'ICE**

SculpFest is an international sculpture festival. It is organized annually in Prizren. Has an alternative approach to art and culture and especially with regards to how these should serve toward the general emancipation of the society. Has had an impact and continues to create room for using art as a form of expression and impacting important societal processes.

## **COMICS AND CARTOONS FESTIVAL**

Is organized annually in Prizren by the Association of Kosovar Comics Artists "Xhennet Comics", which is the sole association for comics in Kosovo. The Association's activities consist of organizing festivals, publishing comic magazines and different activities in this field.



## **GJEÇOV'S MEETINGS**

Gjeçov's Meetings is a cultural and literary manifestation which has been organized for the past 43 years in Zym of Has. This cultural event brings together poets, writers, actors, politicians, intellectuals from the four corners of the country and is organized in honor of the great patriot of the Albanian nation, Father Shtjefën Gjeçov.

## **ZAMBAKU I PRIZRENIT**

It was established in 1986, as the sole cultural activity with the main genre being ballads, chansons and serenades. The traditional festival was initiated by the musical production of the former Radio Television of Prishtina (RTP), where all of its orchestra was involved in playing and executing the songs of the competition. It is held annually in early July, with Albanian, Turkish and Bosnian songs.





## HASI JEHON

Is a folk festival, held annually at the village of Gjonaj, 15 km north-west of Prizren. Around 20 cultural ensembles from the whole country gather up to perform music and dances. The event takes place under an open sky by the “Kodra e Pajtimit/Hill of Reconciliation/” and every year gathers around 10.000 visitors from Kosovo and the region.

## NGOM FEST

Its first edition took place in June 2011. Through music performed by bands from various countries, NGOM Fest promoted a new quality of festivals of music. At the same time, thematic organizations during the festival promoted addressing various social and cultural issues as well as awareness raising of citizens about the problem of youth and society in general.



## SANATLA UYANMAK (AWAKENING THROUGH ART)

The traditional festival “Awakening through Art” is a cultural manifestation of the Turkish minority. It began in 2002. Its character is to bring together science, culture and art throughout the Balkans.



## **CRAFTS FAIR**

The fair of crafts fair and handcrafted goods is held in Prizren under the organization of the Directorate for Tourism and Regional Development. Around 60 exhibitors from Kosovo and the region take part. The fair is organized during the month of June, and attempts to contribute to the tourist offers of Prizren and in increasing the number of tourists in Prizren.

## **40 WELLS FEST**

This festival has open registration policy. The activities pertain to maneuvering through the Bistrica River using tractor tires and sticks. The river is cold and dangerous, therefore additional equipment is required. The helmet is more than necessary. Also a lifejacket is required.



## PEHLIVAN COMPETITION

Traditional Pehlivan competitions are organized annually in Dragash (Sharr). This type of wrestling was learned from the times of ottoman rule and the migration of population to various corners of the word. This type of competition was organized during religious celebrations and family parties (circumcisions and weddings).

## TOURTASTE

First gastronomic festival “TourTaste” was organized in Prizren within the project “Development of typical gastronomic products of interest to tourism in the economic region of South of Kosovo – TourTaste”. At this festival, local citizens, international guests, local and foreign tourists have an opportunity to taste the food and culture of the South of Kosovo.





## EUROPEAN HERITAGE DAYS

OHas been organized since 2006.It Emphasizes local skills and traditions, architecture and works of art. It'sbroader aim is to bringtogether citizens of different languages and cultures. This activity includes the European Heritage Bus, non-competitive and recreational cycling, and promotion of the standards of European Convention for Protection of Heritage, concerts and dances, parades of folk ensembles.

## OLD TIMER FEST

The club was established a few years ago and currently has around 25 members, with 32 vehicles manufactured at least 40 years ago. The club of aficionados of old vehicles "Oldtimer" from Prizren, at the end of May of every year, brings together classic vehicles from Kosovo, region and the world at the Shadervan Square in Prizren.

## TOMATO FESTIVAL

This type of festival in Kosovo is organized by the Municipality of Mamusha as a sign of respect for the cultivation of this vegetable. It is held on 23 of July. The farmers drive for productivity and increase of the quality of tomato is and remains one of the goals of this festival.



## ROK N'RRUSH

Is a three day annual festival held in Rahovec. It brings together rock groups from the whole of Kosovo and region.



## FESTARI

The official celebration of the young and of all citizens of the Municipality of Suhareka “Festari” brings together the thousand-year-old tradition of wine production with art, culture, sports, closer connection between people, and promotion of best values. For the past 13 year, Festari was also joined by an art colony.



## FLOWER FAIR

This is a traditional event that is organized annually in Prizren during the month of May by the Directorate of Tourism and Economic Development.

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