



# PRIZREN

VENUE OF CIVILIZATIONS



MUNICIPALITY OF PRIZREN





***Publisher***

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Department for Tourism and Economic Development

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ISBN 978-9951-636-02-5  
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October 2012

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# *Introduction*

# Foreword

This catalogue is another evidence that shows the commitment of the local government of Prizren for protection of cultural and historical values of Prizren and their promotion in order to cultivate the cultural tourism in Prizren. The catalogue was prepared by a group of professionals and it's a product of an advanced cooperation between local government, civil society and the professionals. Catalogue aims to increase the tourist attractiveness of Prizren through structured presentation of cultural events.

Prizren possesses a perfect cultural and natural heritage. Superimposed in this context are the rich cultural life and the well preserved popular practices of the citizens of Prizren.

The main flaw of all this treasure is the structured offer to attract the attention of the visitors. At a time when most touristic movements become culturally motivated, the catalogue you have in your hands comes as a need of the time and the high dynamics

of cultural development in Prizren.

The catalogue is the evidence of the commitment of the local government of Prizren for the comprehensive development of the city through cultural tourism. At the same time, it represents the will and commitment of the culture community in Prizren and the other community groups to promote cultural content of Prizren.



# *Prizren, city of culture and tourism*

City of Prizren is known since antiquity as a unique place in the Balkans, with different cultural heritage values, civilizations and religions. Thanks to its favorable geographic position, balanced splicing of these cultures throughout history and an enviable number of monuments of all time, the city of Prizren rightfully holds the title of “city museum”, “museum under the open sky” or even the “Dubrovnik in the Balkans”, to be listed as one of the most beautiful cities of Kosovo. Located at the verge of the Shar mountains (which are proclaimed as “National Park”), on both coasts of Lumbardh and at the intersection of important trade routes between east and west, the city of Prizren, during history was known as an important cultural, economic and diplomatic centre.

In countries in transition, usually culture is far from the focus and priorities of the governance. Common reasoning is that the country faces many more important challenges related to development, unemployment, extreme poverty, corruption, ineffective judiciary, poor public services, etc.

According to this view, culture comes after the improvement of the general welfare. Culture, seen in this way, is an elitist concept that restricts cultural (and artistic) activity to a small group of people. A challenging outlook to that elitist, is the understanding of culture as a tool for solving development problems and not due to socio-economic development. This outlook sees culture as an essential part of the development process, and remits it to the community level. The concept of focusing only on the economy was insufficient to address adequately the development challenges at the end of 20th century. As a result, in the 80's was articulated the concept of sustainable development, with the promotion of the triangle economy - society - environment. However, it took less than two decades to challenge even the triangle. The lesson that Europe has learned from the development process is the most appropriate level is the development of the city.

Meanwhile the most successful examples of local development (cities) are undoubt-

edly based on culture. Consequently, today culture is mentioned as the fourth pillar of the sustainable development. Not only as a dimension of development, but as an equal components of the process, along with the economy, society and environment. Naturally, some cities have more favorable pre-conditions for the development of culture. For example, in the Kosovo town of Prizren, thanks to the rich cultural heritage, offers a suitable space for culture. Furthermore, the cultural community in the city, now for couple of years is giving clear development signals through successful cultural initiatives. This community has recently created a common platform of action. The quest is simple - Prizren should develop cultural policies which will transform the city to a famous tourist destination. To achieve this goal, local government is changing its approach towards culture, seeing it as a main resource for the development of the city.

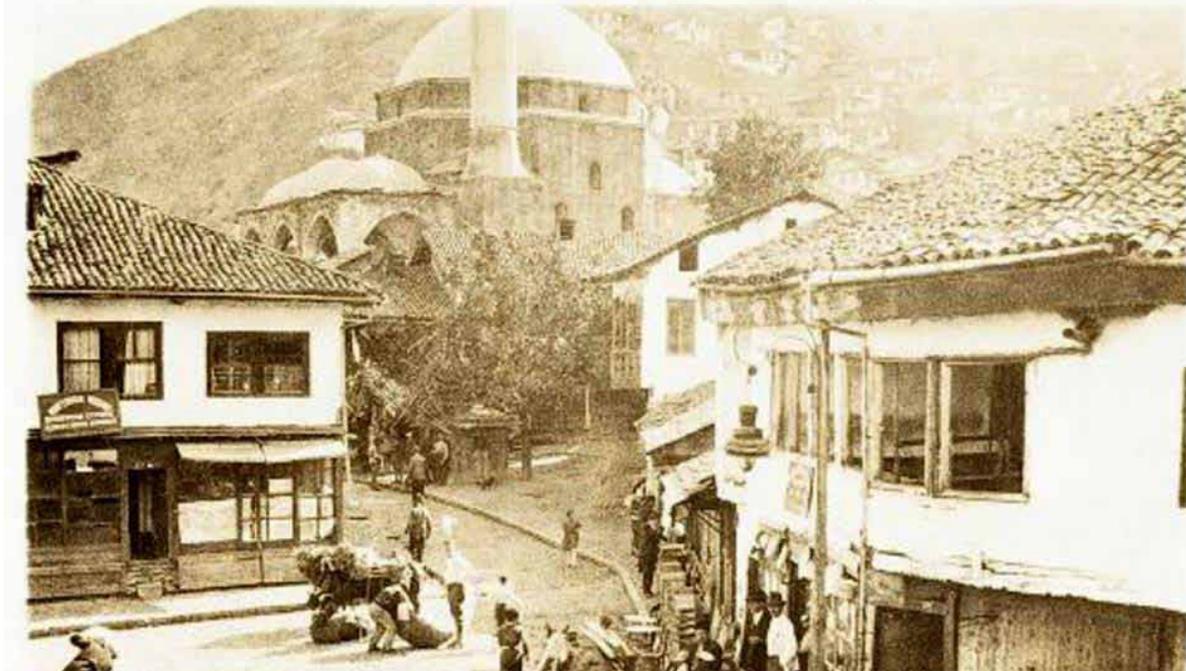
Practically, this means that the development planning of the city every day more and more is being built over and through the



culture. A concrete action, after the publication of this catalog will be the development of Cultural Tourism Strategy of Prizren.

# *About Prizren*

# History



Prizren is undoubtedly one of the most important settlements in Kosovo. It has a whacking past that has attracted the curiosity of different travelers, historians, geographers and scientists, which published many works for this known administrative, cultural, historical and political center. Prizren area was inhabited since ancient times and retains evidence and archaeological monuments from Neolithic, eneolithic, bronze, iron, antiquity and onwards.. This is evidenced by the numerous artifacts discovered during the archeological excavations, carried out in a number of localities. Archeological findings show that Prizren is one of the oldest cities of Eastern Europe and beyond.

Archeological findings prove that this area was inhabited since antique, when it was known as Theranda in 2nd century BC, and the area was populated by Dardans. In the 5th century BC the name Petrzèn is mentioned by Procopius of Caesarea in *De aedificiis* (Book IV, Chapter 4). The name of Prizren (in different variants) is encountered in various documents and maps, as

in Table V of Ptolemy (II century), where it is named as Tërmidava, then in the map *Tabula Peutingeriana* (III century), at the scholar E. Spencer is encountered as Procopera (359-336 BC). We encounter Prizren with this name also at Procopius (565), and according to American Eric Hamp, Prizren designation comes from Theranda (Therandë), Pri-zdrijana, Peneropolis, Pra-eserem, Pri-zna, Pri-zrenum, Pre-sarin, Pri-sareno, Pri-zirendi, Pre-zren, Pre-zdin, Pri-zdren, Pru-zrenin, Torzerm, Perserin e Pri-zrend, Pri-zerand, Pri-serand, Pri-zer-endi, Pri-zereni and Prizreni. During the 9th century it was an important urban center, and in the year 1019, Prizren was the Episcopal residency of the Byzantine Empire. With the division of the Roman Empire (395) in the West and East, Prizren fell under Byzantine rule (until c. XIII). In the years 1189-90 Prizren for the first time falls under the rule of Nemanjic (Nemanja). During the siege of Constantinople, during the Fourth Crusade in 1204, the Bulgarian emperor Kalloyan takes the advantage and conquers Prizren. By the year 1230 Prizren is again under the

administration of Despot of Epirus.

In the year 1282 Nemanjics again rule the Prizren, and this time they reinforce their positions. Ottoman rule in Prizren began in 1455 (some historians point the year 1459). In the pan-Albanian congress held in Prizren, on June 10, 1878, the Albanian League of Prizren was founded in head with Iljaz Pasha Dibra. The central administration and the temporary government, led by Ymer Prizreni was placed in Prizren.

After the conquest of Serbia until 1941 Prizren was within Serbia, respectively Versailles Yugoslavia. During the second world war 1941-44, Prizren was part of Albania, which was occupied by Italian forces. During the World War II (1941-1944), Prizren was a part of Albania, in the framework of Italian occupation. After 1944 until 1999, the city was part of Yugoslavia of AVNOJ. On June 12, 1999 Prizren is liberated by the KLA (Kosovo Liberty Army) and NATO forces.

# Geography

The municipality of Prizren with an area of 640 km<sup>2</sup> (5.94% of the Territory of Kosovo), lies in the southwest of Kosovo, with 74 villages and approximately 175 000 inhabitants. It borders with the Municipalities of Gjakova, Rahovec, Suhareka, Shtërpce and Dragash, as well as with Albania and Macedonia. Prizren's plane is in a sea level of around 400 meters and some of the peaks are over 2000 meters high over the sea level. The city has a miscellaneous weather. Famous geographer from Alexandria, Claudius Ptolemy (87-150) in his book "Geography" among others identifies the road that connected the Adriatic basin with Illyria. Anonymous author from Ravenna, Italy, who lived in the end of 7th or beginning of 8th century in his book "Cosmographia" (The world description) among 5,300 world geographical names of that time highlighted Theranda as well.

Maps identify with these names: Thermidava, Theranda, Petrizen, Zeranda, Prisdiana, Pirenopojë, Perserin, Prisrend, Prizren etc. It is believed that the life of Priz-



ren begins with ancient Theranda. Through Prizren area passes the road that connects the middle parts of Balkans with Adriatic Sea. The geographical positioning of Prizren is best described with the analyzing of its relation to Kosovo, the Dukagjin plane, and the Lumebardh plane. Kosovo is composed of Plane of Kosovo and Dukagjin. The plains of Kosovo and Dukagjin are positioned in the middle part of the Balkans peninsula. Kosovo and the region of Prizren have a transit character between the Pannonia and

Pontiac regions in one way, and of Aegean-Adriatic in another way.

# *Cultural heritage*

The most valuable wealth of Prizren are the values inherited from past centuries. These values are manifested with a perfect architecture and urban magical structure on the one hand and specific folk traditions on the other side. The Cultural Heritage of Prizren is a rare coloring and represents the most attractive omnibus of identities in Kosovo. Prizren is the venue where different cultures and civilizations have meet, whose contribution has been crucial to the city, which today is represented as the value of world civilization in terms of cultural heritage.

City of Prizren is known since antiquity as a unique place in the Balkans, with different cultural heritage values, civilizations and religions. Thanks to its favorable geographic position, balanced splicing of these cultures throughout history and an enviable number of monuments of all time, the city of Prizren rightfully holds the title of “city museum”, “museum under the open sky” or even the “Dubrovnik in the Balkans”, to be listed as one of the most beautiful cities of Kosovo. Located at the verge of the Shar mountains



(which are proclaimed as “National Park”), on both coasts of Lumbardh and at the intersection of important trade routes between east and west, the city of Prizren, during history was known as an important cultural, economic and diplomatic centre.

Prizren’s essential features are a combination of different civilizations and the existence of fine works. City overlaps the past with the present. Era after era, ranging from the Roman period and continuing into the

Ottoman period and then to post World War II, the city has developed and with this load of civilization celebrates its independence. In the Shadervan square it’s located the Sinan Pasha Mosque, and if you walk a bit more you can see the Orthodox Church, St. George. Walking a bit uphill you reach the Catholic “Helping Lady” Cathedral. And when you look from the neighborhood called Topokli, the minaret and the domes of these three different religious temples can be seen, as they stand by each other, carrying the long tradition and conveying the message of religious tolerance from centuries.

# *Prizren's craft works*

Prizren is also known for the development of trade due to its association with the silk road. In this way the city has made the connection between some commercial sites: Prishtina, Skopje, Tirana and Montenegro. City had a role of the connecting bridge and guesthouses (han). In the past, the development of the city was closely related to developments in terms of handicrafts, trade and the road network, as well. Prizren traversed old Dardan road from Lezha to Niš. This road in the Middle Ages was called Via de Zenta. Transport of goods was made with caravans. The road was passing by the Prizren, and it was branching from the city to couple other directions, which means that movement, storage, distribution of all the goods from the Mediterranean to the Danube and vice versa enabled Prizren to establish business relation with hundreds of villages and towns, as well as reveal the benefits for itself. With the advent of rail traffic, the old road loses its former importance. This had serious consequences for the city.

Throughout history, Prizren was even developed in a greater rate, and was one of the most important craft centers of the Balkans. In many workshops, different kinds of crafts were developed. Their number increased gradually, from century to century, so that in the second part of 19th century, its number achieved the maximum possible, were 124 types of handicrafts, in over than 1384 workshops were developed.

The most prevalent crafts were: Craft of weapons, jewelry, saddle-workers, blacksmith, blade-workers, farrier etc. In the past, the development of the city was closely related to developments in terms of handicrafts, trade and the road network, as well. In the 19th century Prizren was the second most important economic and trade center within Albanian territories with approximately 1,500 workshops, at the end of this period. According to Turkish annual of the year 1874 the city of Prizren had 44,000 inhabitants, of whom over 35,000 Albanians. However, the development of technology and the transfer of manufacturing industry

has caused to wane handicrafts, making a number of these crafts to extinction. Despite this, the city of Prizren still has masters who form exemplary of different kinds that are used in everyday life or are sold as souvenirs that remind the visit in the ancient and historic Prizren.







# Monuments

Prizren's essential features are the combination of different civilizations and existence of beautiful works. City overlaps its past with the present. On one side, the architecture testifies the antiquity of this settlement, while on the other hand the rich cultural life has turned the city into the epicenter of contemporary art in Kosovo. Through the city runs the Lumbardhi River where festivals are held. In the Hamam of Mehmed Pasha the exhibition and fairs halls are opened, that convert the streets of Prizren in to a museum of the film curtain screen. Era after era, ranging from the Roman period and continuing into the Ottoman period and then to post World War II, the city has developed and with this load of civilization celebrates its independence. From the verge of the Shar mountain emanates rapid water. Viewing the city from Topokli, you see how close the Ottoman Mosque, Orthodox Church and the Catholic Cathedral are. The city has experienced a lot of hatred which caused destructions and tragedies, but despite numerous difficulties, Prizren is today a symbol of coexistence

and welcoming to people who are willing to appreciate it.

River banks of Lumbardhi in the city are connected by bridges. There is no data for the first bridge and its image, as exiting the gorge Lumbardhi had another bed. In the 18th century over the Lumbardhi there were nine bridges, although the places of bridges are not defined and they were not named, and it seems that they were located in the narrow space of the city respectively Marash bridge-Shotmanit, League, Arasta bridge, Stone Bridge and the Nalet Bridge (Satan), Beledije bridge, Suzi Çelebi bridge, Kacanik (in Tabakhana) and Buzagillek. Before the construction of Stone Bridge and the Suzi Çelebi one, all the bridges were built of wood.

Prizren is not only the richest city in Kosovo with water, but it's also one of the richest cities in the Balkans. The use of drinking water from multiple sources within city space is an early practice, but the data regarding the beginning of use in an organized manner do

not exist.

Accurate records for the water-supply network in Prizren are encountered in the 80's of the 16th century, during Ottoman ruling. Besides family fountains, in key places within the city space as well as near mosques and their courtyards were built public water sources. According to Salname of Prizren from 1974, the city had 150 springs and by the end of the century the city had 196 springs. One of the most visible evidences of the historic urban structure of Prizren are its old houses or urban homes. These houses retain details of styles and different architectures including those of Oriental and Austro-Hungarian. Finally, Prizren, is also known as the center of important archaeological findings. One of the most spectacular discoveries is the "Prizren Runner" dating from the years 520 - 500 BC.





*League of Prizren* lies in subtle point of the city urban space, surrounded by Lumbardhi, Marash complex and houses of the Castle. Beside the values of material culture, the complex has a great historical importance since in the Madrasah and Mehmed Pasha Mosque was held the founding assembly of League of Prizren in 1878. The League Museum contains many evidence from that period and is known as a tour destination.





**Prizren Castle** is located on top terrace that dominates the whole river gorge Lumbardh and Prizren area, in an area of 15776 square meters. Exact time regarding the building of the Castle is not known, but it is assumed that it dates from 6th century, and in different time periods has been used for residential purposes, as well as for military purposes. Castle basement comprises a network of tunnels, one of which after 1938 was used as a water tank, as part of a hydroelectric system and the water supply of Prizren.





***Maiden Castle*** is the first fortress among the three strongholds in the eastern part of the city. It is located in the narrow entrance mouth of Lumbardh. The ruins of fortress walls called “City on the Outfall” can be seen as out of the way, and from Prizren Castle. During various periods of rule, the castle changed names and now is known as Maiden Castle. It seems it was built at approximately the same time as the Monastery of Holy Archangels, and in meanwhile was taken by the Ottoman army after their arrival in the area.



***Gazi Mehmet Pasha Hamam (Bath)*** is located in the urban center of the city, which belongs to Arasta compound. It was built in 1573/74 when Mehmet Pasha builds its Mosque in vicinity. Hamam is considered among the largest ones in the Balkans. The bath consisted of two parts, one for men and one for women. This hamam, same as the Daut Pasha's in Skopje and Gazi Hysret Bey's in Sarajevo, belongs to the most successful Ottoman architecture in the Balkans. The building has functioned until 1926.





**Beledija** is the first building of the Municipal Assembly of Prizren, built at the end of the 19th century. XIX. The bridge near this building is called the Bridge of Beledije by local inhabitants. Beledija is the best evidence of the political and administrative culture of Prizren, and today the building serves as a resource and training center for cultural heritage.



**Marash milling "Shotman"** belongs to Marash complex and was the older milling. It is located in the eastern part of Prizren near Marash Bridge and Maksut Pasha's Mosque. Mill was first built in 1641 and on March 15, 1994, was demolished and in its place was built a restaurant.

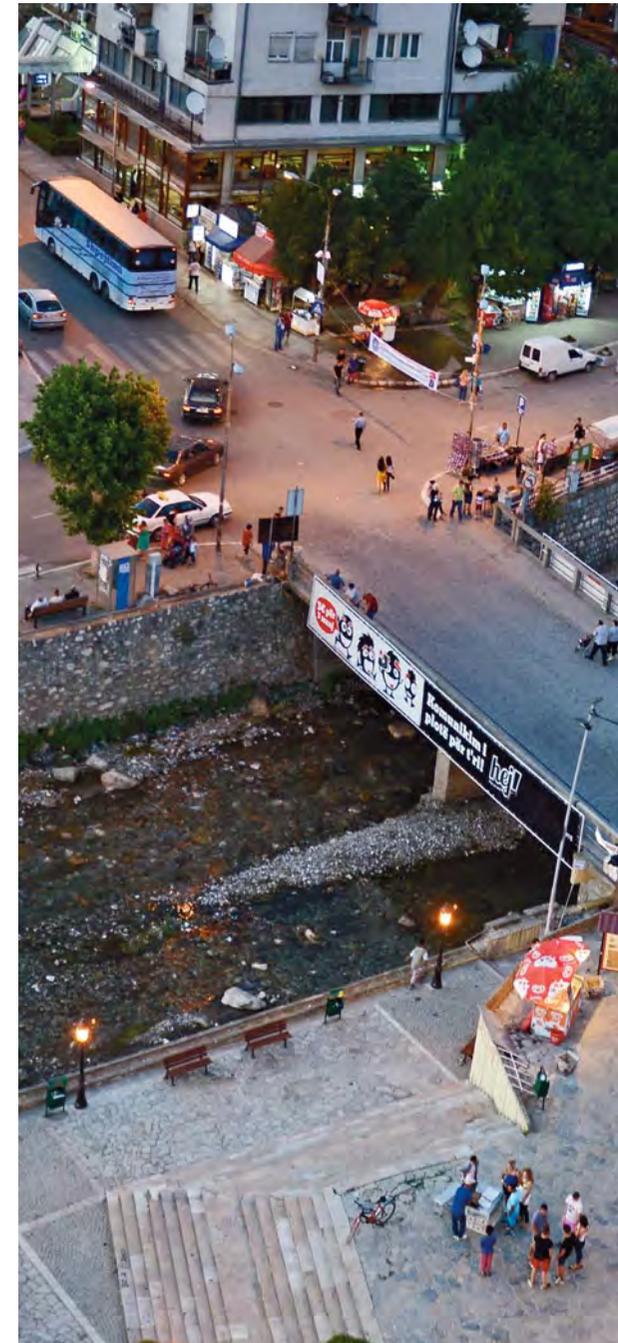


**The Stone Bridge** was built by Ali Bey in the 16th century. It's an oriental style construction. Bridge had an arch shape, built of stone frameworks with limestone. Bridge faced many challenges during different times, but was destroyed during the floods of 1979. In 1982 was reconstructed and its attractive appearance came back, although with a substantial difference.





**Left: Nalet (Satan) Bridge** was placed near the Stone Bridge and had a wooden trough through which water passed to the other side of town. Nearby was a wooden beam so the people could pass. Since it was getting wet all the time, and getting icy in the winter time the pedestrians often failed into the water. By locals the Bridge was called Nalet Bridge.



**Right: Arasta Bridge** was built in the 18th century, and was part of Bezistan, the covered market. On both sides of the river there were shops. The covered market started at the Sinan Pasha mosque and went up to Mehmed Pasha's Hamam.



*The Suzi Çelebi (Tabakhana) Bridge* is near the Suzi Çelebi mosque and it is also known as the Tabakhana bridge, because it was connected with the Tabakhana street. The bridge was built by Suzi Çelebia in 1513.



*The house of Shemsedin Kirajtani* is located in the first protected area of Prizren. It belongs to the beginning of the 19th century and it is included in the list of objects identified for Protection of Monuments in Prizren.





*The house of Shuaip Pasha* is located on Shuaip Spahia Street, which means, at the junction of this street with the one of the gunners, near the Nalet Bridge. It was built at the beginning of the 20th century by Shuaip Pasha, the Minister of Finance in the first government of Albanian state. This house with vernacular architecture values both in exterior and interior is imposed and dominates the urban center of Prizren.



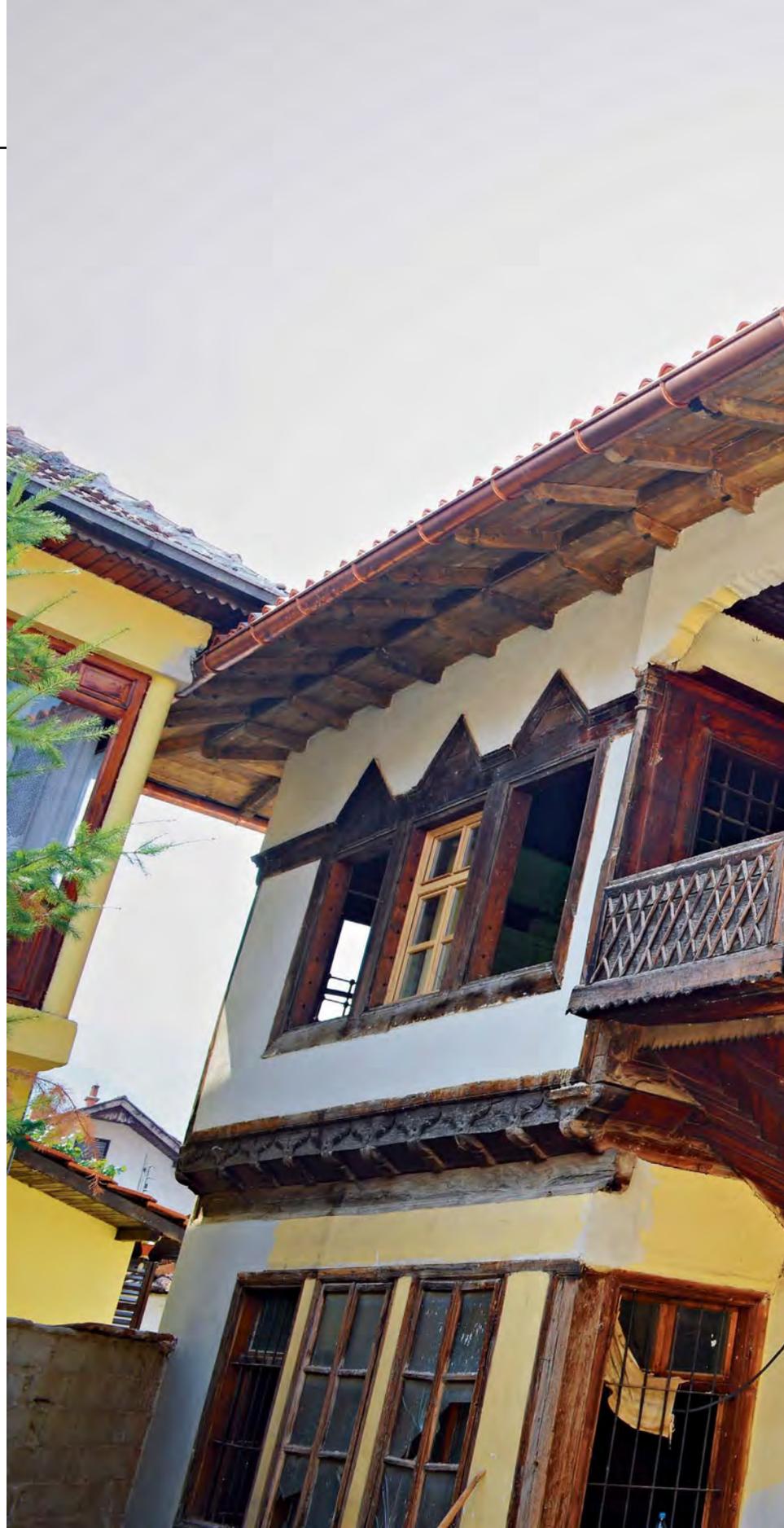
*The house of Gani Dukagjini* is located opposite to Coves Bridge respectively to League Bridge within which compound it used to be. It belongs to the 19th century and is part of vernacular architecture, and for this reason is valued as a cultural monument. The house consisted of two parts: the harem and the guests.



*The house of Ymer Prizreni*, the president of the Albanian League of Prizren. It belongs to 19th century.



*The house of Muse Shehzade* was built at the end of the 18th century and represents the peak of Renaissance realism of folk architecture, which in itself contains original elements of Prizren.







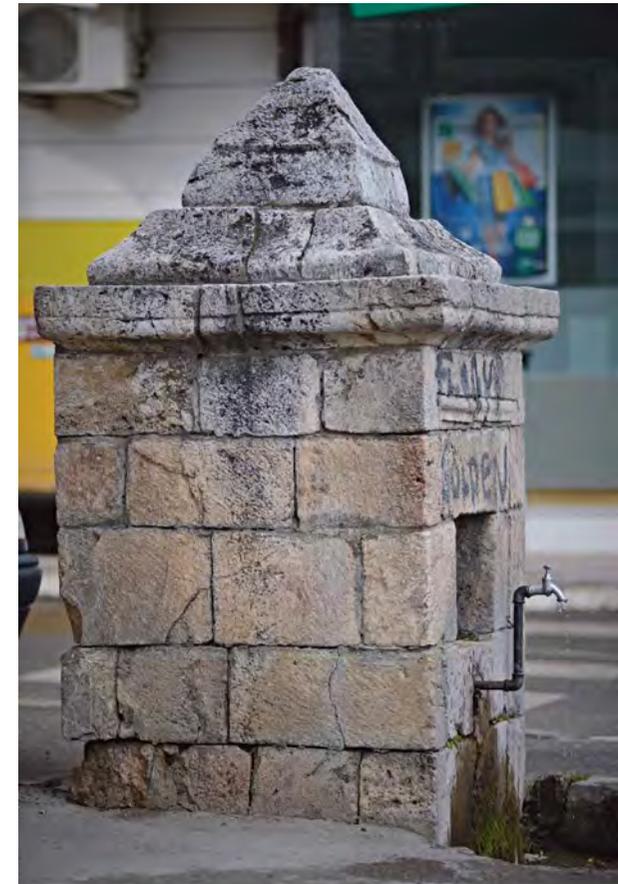
*The house of Mustafa Family* is located at the Saraj Street opposite to the Culture House. It belongs to 18th century.





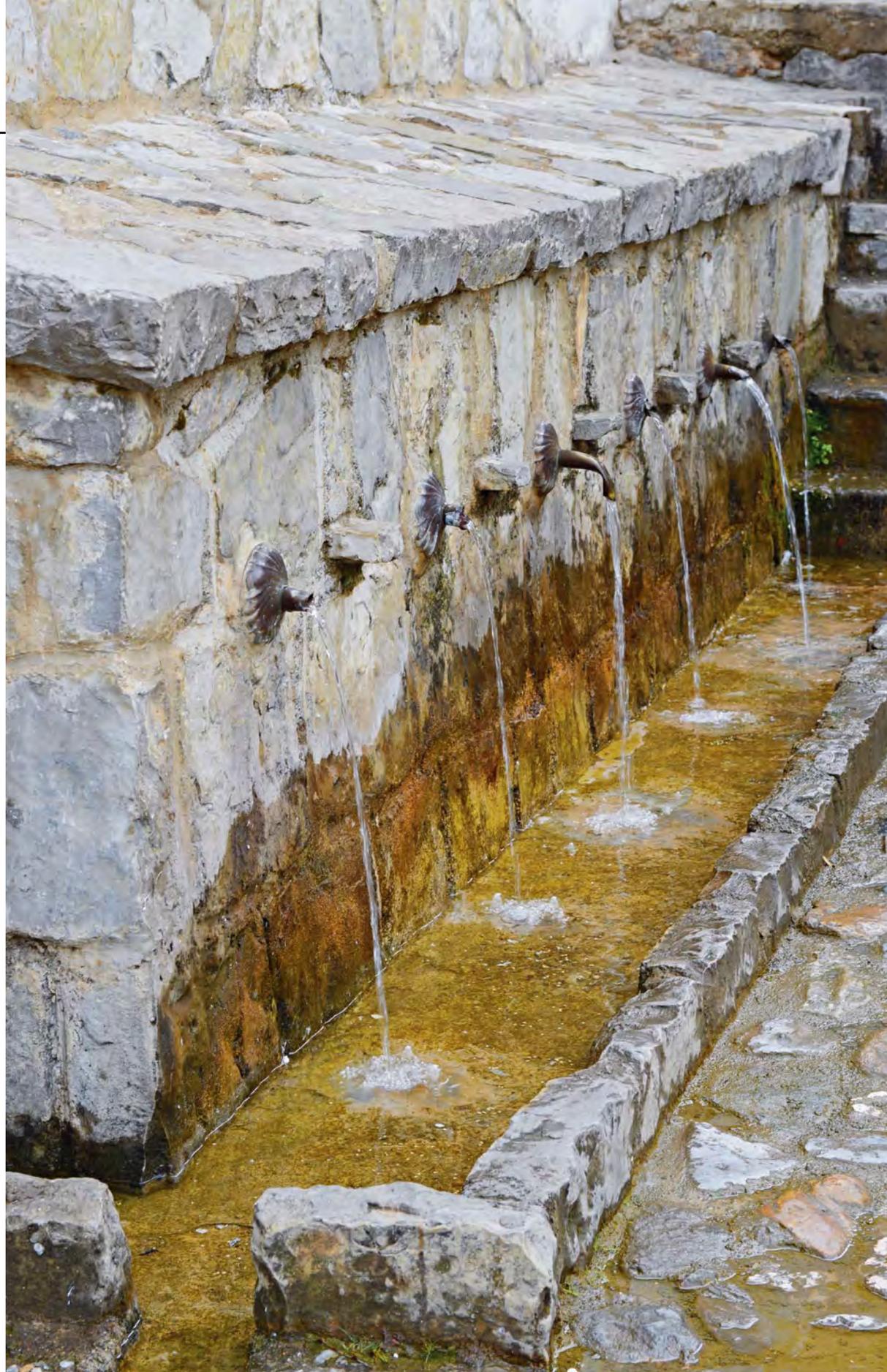


***The Shatervan Fountain*** meaning comes from the Persian word: “Springs with many flows”. It is located in the heart of the city center of Prizren and is supposed to be the oldest one in the city. Since during the Ottoman period it suffered some changes, consequently, the time of construction is not known.



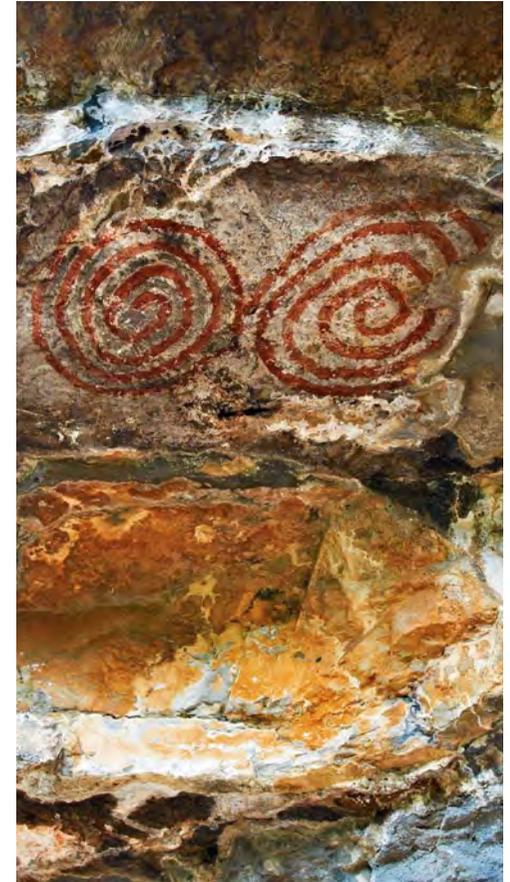
***Bimbashi Spring*** is located at the junction near Ilijaz Kukes mosque and the Blue Bridge of Youth (Bimbashi). Although the construction time is not known, it was built by a senior officer of the Ottoman Empire. This spring has undergone several interventions that greatly risked its value.

*Topokli or Six Springs* lie in the entrance to 'Marash' complex opposite to the House of Ymer Qyse. It is located in Marash complex and has six pipes made up of bronze and the stone tub. Construction time is not known, but from sculptural forms present before 1994, it is supposed to have been built before the arrival of the Ottomans.





**Vlashnja** is archaeological site, which is located on the right side of the road Prizren-Zhur, about 6 km west of Prizren. In this site were found proves for the continuity of life during several periods of time. Archaeological material discovered in this locality revealed multiple fragments of baked clay vessels, stone tools, coins, etc.



**The Vlashnja Cave** was discovered by the Kosovo Security Force. According to first analyses it is supposed that the cave is from the Bronze period. Here are found some different drawings, whose motive still needs to be studied.



***The mound in Gjinoc (Illyrian mound)*** is a rare case in Kosovo, of a gigantic mound at Small Gjinovci called Tuma (mound) with a height of about ten meters, and which has not yet been explored. However, having in mind the dimensions, the shape of the work, the amount and place of its occurrence it should be dated from the developed iron period of Dardan ancienty.



***Castle of Korisha and the early Christian Church***  
Church during archaeological excavations conducted in castle hill of Korisha, known as Gralishta, brought contours and documented the layout of an early Christian church from the 6th century. The church is located within the inner zone around the fort and has an apse which is oriented eastward. Also here were found some fragments of ceramic vessels dating from prehistory probably related to the location opposite from the middle bronze period, as well as fragments

of vessels such as amphorae, pithoi, jerry jugs etc dating the end of late antiquity, 6th century.



***Clock Tower*** is thought to be built in the 15th century by Ahmet Shemsedini. This facility was also used as a hamam (public bath) while today is used as the Museum of Archaeology. For the first time the object of the Clock Tower as an Archaeological Museum opened its doors to visitors in the year 1975.



**Runner (Menada) of Prizren** is a bronze statuette presenting a figure of a girl - athlete while running. It was found somewhere in Prizren during the second half of the 19th century. There are thoughts that Statuette was created during the archaic period and dates somewhere around the years 520 - 500 BC. This exhibit is located in the British Museum in London.



**The figure of messenger in bronze** stems from the 6th-5th century BC, and it was found in a rural area in Pirana village. It was saved by an old citizen of Prizren which delivered it to the Institute for Protection of Monuments in Prizren.



**Bronze figure of seated goat** belongs to 6th century BC. According to written records this figure was discovered by chance in 1939 at Jaglenica a suburb of Prizren. This image is displayed at the Museum of Vranje since in 1966 ethnograph and representative of Kosovo Museum Tatomir Vukanoviq bought it from Gani Dukagjini. This museum piece in bronze has a dimension 6.5 cm long, 3 cm width and 6.5 cm height with a weight of 0.38 g and is related to Illyrian deity called Bindin.

Bronze Roman coins found in Romaja region, Has.



Antiquity found in the Romaja region, Has.







# Religion

Prizren is inhabited by Albanians, Turks, Gorani, Torbesh, Roma, Bosniaks, Serbs and others. In the mosaic of religious affiliations of the citizens of Prizren dominates the Islamic faith, and there are present also Catholicism, Orthodoxy and other faiths. Prizren has a substantial number of mosques, Orthodox churches, Catholic churches, tombs and mausoleums, which together create grandeur and harmony of religious architecture in Prizren.

Coexistence of these ethnic and religious groups represents the true identity of Prizren. In this city there are no national divisions, since communication among people is done in community languages. Tolerance and respect make this city to have a saying Prizrenli or Prizren-man, which means that citizens feel themselves as a unified asset of Prizren. Among Prizren inhabitants there are no divisions but cohabitation, so this is an example that explains their life.

In the Shadervan square it's located the Sinan Pasha Mosque, and if you walk a bit

more you can see the Orthodox Church, St. George. Walking a bit uphill you reach the Catholic "Helping Lady" Cathedral. And when you look from the neighborhood called Topokli, the minaret and the domes of these three different religious temples can be seen, as they stand by each other, carrying the long tradition and conveying the message of religious tolerance from centuries.





*Sofi Sinan Pasha's Mosque* was built in 1615 by Sofi Sinan Pasha. Sinan Pasha Mosque is considered as the main mosque of the city of Prizren, due to its unique architecture that makes it differ from other mosques. It was built in downtown, in the left side of Lumbardhi, while with its architectural beauty; this Islamic object of worship is among the most important ones in the Balkan Peninsula.





***Namazxhah (Broken Mosque)*** Ottoman ascendancy near the surrounded settlements after the conquest used to build field mosques or namazxhah, and later they were built in the places where fairs took part. Broken Mosque belongs to the year 1455, when Prizren was conquered by the Ottoman Empire.



***Emin Pasha's Mosque*** - At the beginning of the 19th century in Prizren the Rrotlla family becomes powerful. The most important representative of this family is Emin Pasha. He built a very nice mosque and decorated with mural painting, a madrassa, while with brothers they reconstructed many public buildings, built a family palace, a hamam and the first Post Office building in Prizren.



*The Saraç-hana Mosque* was built in 1534 and got the name from the crafters of belts and other leather-made elements and their market which used to be in this site. The mosque retained most of its original elements and it's closely linked with the nearby Halveti Tekke.



***Suzi Çelebi Mosque*** - Among the first charitable man in his hometown of Prizren is Suzi Çelebi, whose real name was Mohammed Mahmud Abdullah, the man who at the beginning of the 16th century build a huge complex consisting of: mosque, library (1506), a dervish lodge, school, great bridge, small bridge, irrigation system of seven kilometers for his fields in his property in Grazhdanik. His grave and his brothers Nehari, respectively Ramadan are found in the courtyard of the mosque.

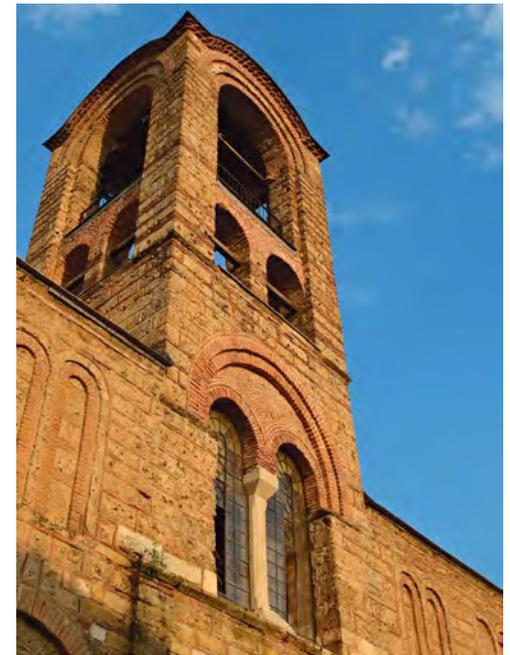


***Mehmed Pasha Mosque*** was named after the most famous person of the second half of the 16th century. Beside a mosque and a hamam built in native village in Prizren Mehmed Pasha built the biggest complex of all time comprising of: the Flag (Bajrakli) Mosque, that will play the role of the city's central mosque, in the courtyard of which he build his own mausoleum and madrassa which will educate the youth of Prizren and wider.



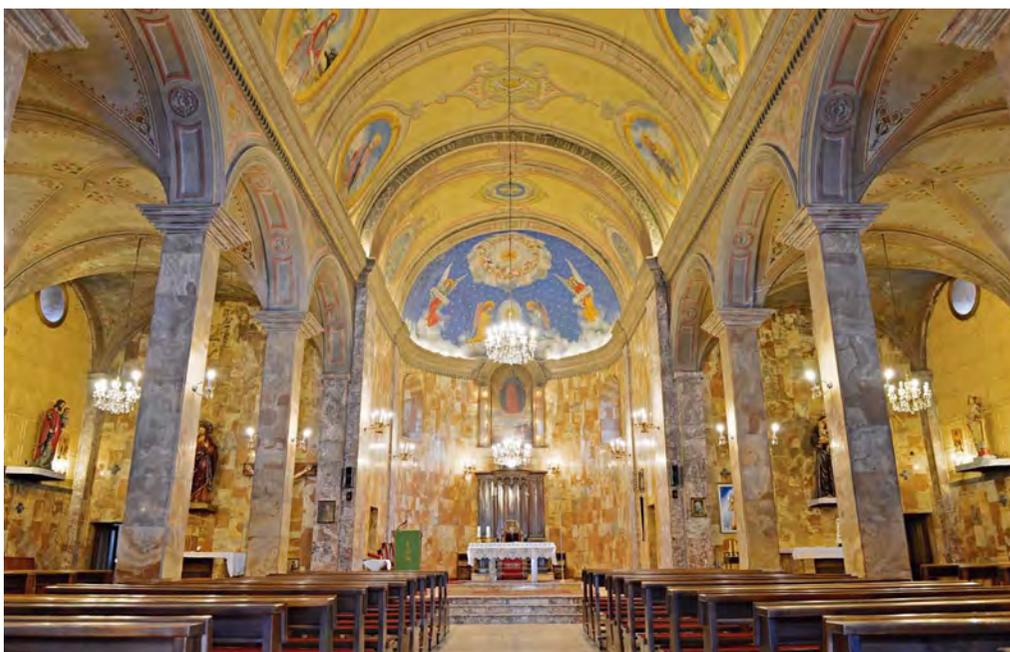


**St. Friday** is the oldest object with the richest history in Prizren and Kosovo, which is located on the western edge of the urban center of Prizren. Represents a pagan Illyrian-Dardan soothsayer dedicated to goddess of fertility Friday, on which was built a Catholic chapel. In 810 upon it was built a Byzantine basilica, and in 1306-1307 King Milutin rebuilt it to a Orthodox Church, which then in 1455 was turned to Islamic shrine by Sultan Mehmed II. In 1912 after the re-conquest of our lands from Serbia it returns to be a Serbian Orthodox church, and after 1945 turns into museum object. According to changes in ascendance this object had different names: St. Friday, Levisha, Fatih Sultan Mehmet Mosque, Atik Mosque, Friday Mosque, Bogorodica Levishka.





**Helping Lady Cathedral** is located in the southwest of the urban center of the city, at the street called Qafë Pazari (Bazaar Neck). The church with Greco-Roman elements of architecture was built in the foundations of the old church in 1870 by Archbishop Dario Bucciarelli, and later Thomas Glasnoviq putted the bell and set the clock. Besides the frescoes on the walls with civic motifs and the painting of Helping Lady at the altar, in this church are the sculptures of two famous personalities from the past of the Balkans, Giorgio Castriota-Scanderbeg and Janos Hunyadi.





*St. Saviour Church* dates from the rule of Serbian king Stefan Dusan in 1330, and its located on the way to Prizren Castle.

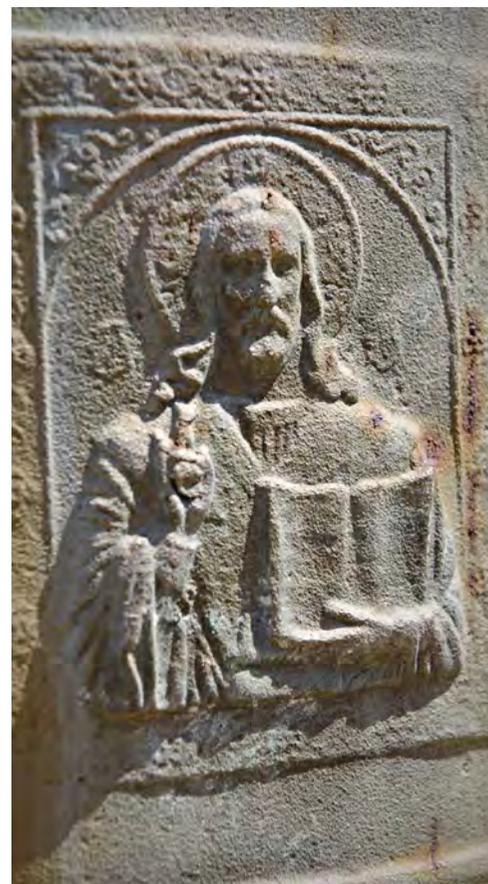


*Church of St. Nicholas*, built in 1331 by local resident, Dragoslav Tutic who later became a monk named Nicholas.



**Episcopal Church of St. George** is located in the center of Prizren, which was built in 1887 on the foundations of an earlier church. In this site there is also a small church which is known as the Church of St George or Runovic's and belongs to the 14th-16th century.





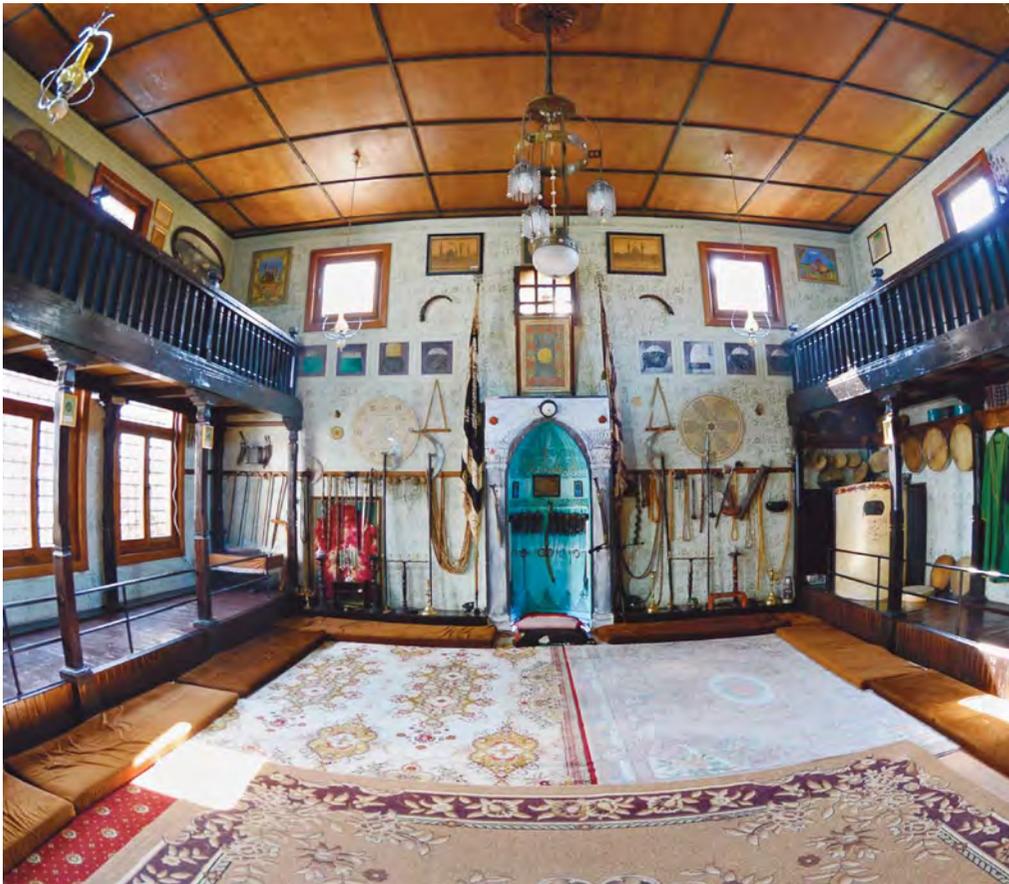
***Saint Angels Monastery*** is located on the third kilometer of the road Prizren - Prevala, across Lumbardh and Old Stone Bridge. It was built during the years 1343 - 1352, and was inaugurated in 1355. In 16th and 17th century monastery suffered major damages that make it impossible to know the exact appearance as it was in the beginning. Besides the monastery and rare values representing religious heritage, this location has also its archaeological site.





*The Halveti's Tekke* was established in 1605 in the "Saraçët" neighborhood by Sheh father Osman from Luma, and still is the central tekke of this order in Prizren. The inhabitants of Prizren refer to it as Sheh Hasan's tekke. It has it branches in Rahovec, Mitrovica and Albania.





**Rufa'i Tekke** is located in the western part of the city of Prizren, near the gymnasium "Gjon Buzuku". Sheh Rufai came to Balkans from Istanbul by the end of the 19th century. Characteristic of this order is the ritual organized on the first day of spring during which dervishes bore themselves in different parts of the body.





***Kaderi-Zingjirli Tekke*** is located in the north of Prizren. It was established in 1646 by Sheh Hasan Horosani and is regarded as the first dervish lodge and the oldest of this order in the Balkans.



***Tekke of sheh Axhize father (Saadi order)***  
 - Abdylvehap the son of Axhize Father came to Prizren from Gjakova, when he was a little child. Since Abdylvehap, adopted the Saadi order in 1607, Axhize Father raised the tekke in the location of Marash. In the mausoleum lies the Axhize Father's tomb.



***Karabash Baba*** mausoleum is located in a central part of compound of Karabash, named according to the founder, who has led the right side of Prizren when Prizren was occupied by the Ottoman Empire.







**Ramadan** is the holy month of Muslim believers. In this month all believers of Islam religion fast (by not eating and drinking) throughout the day, while the sun is shining. During the month of Ramadan life gets dynamic after the Iftar, when everyone regardless of age attends public premises, especially teahouses and they stay up until Suhoor hours.



***Eid*** is the Muslim holiday which is celebrated twice a year, once after the month of Ramadan and two months after the month of Ramadan.



*Date of birth of Hz. Ali* and spring day celebration called Sultan Nevruz. In photo: Sheh Shaban Efendi's tekke, the Sinani order.





***Catholic Easter*** is a holiday that is celebrated by Catholic community every year and this holiday feature are boiled and colored eggs.





**Gjurgjevdan - St George's Day** is a popular Christian holiday that is celebrated on 6 of May (or 23rd of April according to the old calendar) in memory of St. George. This day is celebrated by Catholics as well as by the Orthodox believers in memory of the loss of St George on 23 April 303. Holiday marks the border between the winter and summer related to family health, marriage, coronation of the young, cattle fertility and abundance of fruits.



**Orthodox Easter** is a holiday that is celebrated by Orthodox community each year and feature of this holiday is throwing the cross into the water as a sign for the fulfillment of wishes.





# Art and culture

The well known encyclopedist Evliya Çelebi, a poet from the 16th century in his poetry writings describes that in Prizren if male child is born then he will find his street before he is even baptized. Arts, such as those created by Evliya Çelebi are continuing as a source of the tradition of the city. The poet narrates and says come see this city because here is developed not only the literature but also the art of music.

This is evidenced by the strings of çiftelia, mandoline, etc. during the broadcast of songs. Prizren in his building has a wonderful art. This art is decorated by buildings with high domes and the strings of different instruments during the singing of songs. Various paintings, weaving cans or any movement of the brush is a special kind of art.

Prizren is the city of crafts. Today although the crafts such as farrier, saddler, tinker and water vesselers exist and are perfect, other crafts remain in line with the traditional ones e.g.: silver wires still are worked with a discipline and fervent love as well as handmade

works with different samples of silver lace.

If you are close to a blacksmith, then you can hear a sound that makes you think that this is a sound of a musical instrument that comes from the masters hammers while he hits this metal to give a proper form to a tool. Within Prizren can be observed crafts as: shoemaker, tailor and barber which means you can meet traditional crafts that continue to quietly live a life among the citizens.

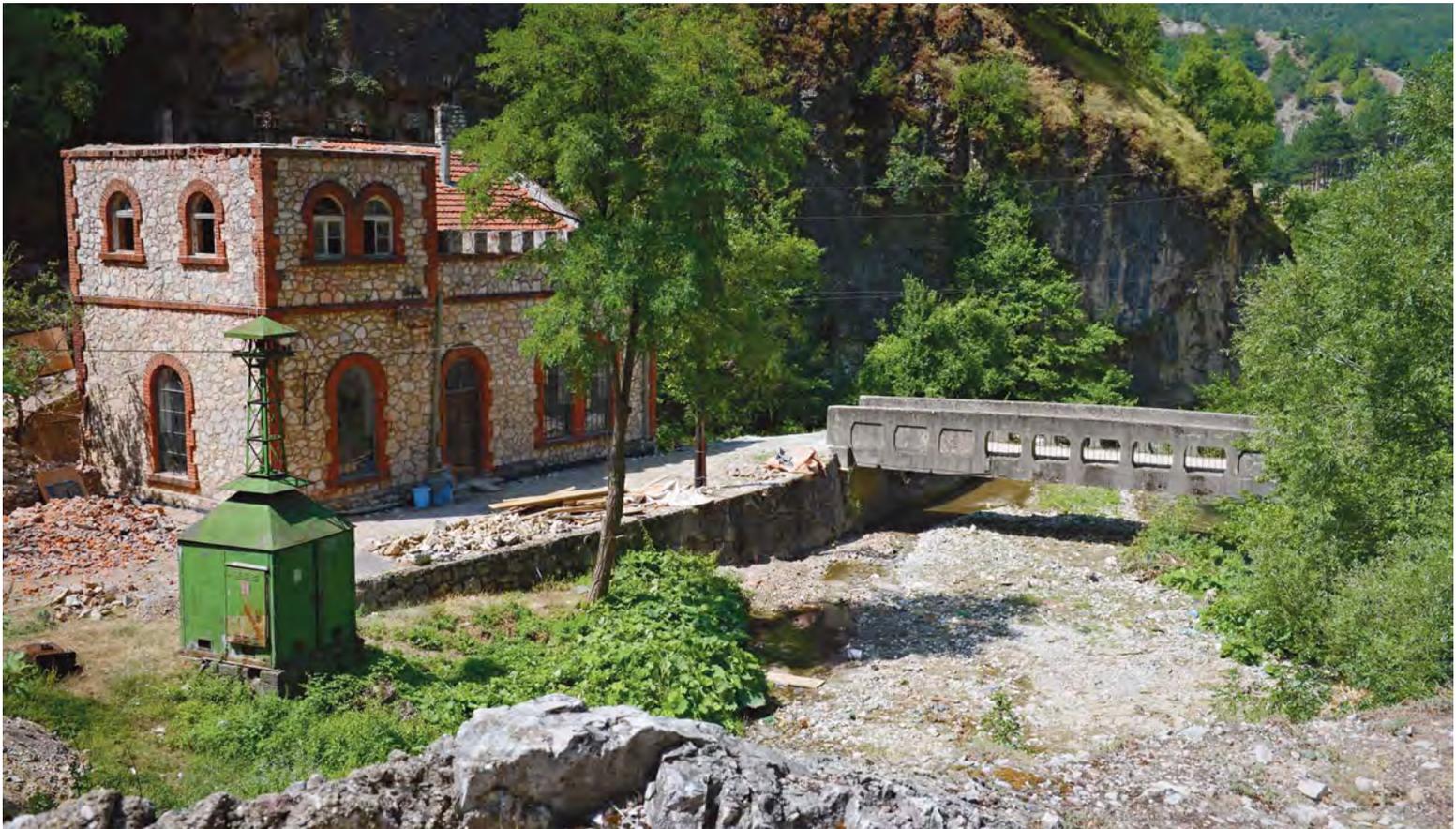
Rich cultural life of Prizren is another reason to describe it as a city of culture. Prizren is the city of Dokufest, one of the world's most popular short film and documentaries festivals. Also, in Prizren traditionally is organized a song festival "Zambaku i Prizrenit" (Lily of Prizren), which is the only one that cultivates old citizen songs. During one year, about 50 cultural activities are organized in Prizren.





*Archaeological Museum* displays archaeological discoveries of the region and the city from the most ancient times in this area. Adjacent to the museum is the clock tower.





***Hydro-Electric Museum (Hidroelektrana)*** was built in 1929 by a Vienna based company and was the first hydropower station in Kosovo. Hydro-station was operational until the seventies, while today, in this museum are exposed electrical artifacts, where you can get acquainted with the technology of that time.



*Ethnographic Museum* is located in the compound of the League of Prizren. In this museum are exhibited the clothing and other pieces from the various Albanian regions.







**Filigran** is an ancient craft that uses mainly silver and gold to produce very fine artwork. Filigran origin is believed to come since the Egyptians, however, it is supposed that in Kosovo is present since the 15th century.



Filigraan is produced in the region where even today there are about 10 family businesses that are active in processing and producing interesting works which can be found in Prizren souvenirs.



***DokuFest*** is a documentary and short film festival, which takes place in the first week of August. It is an international festival and has become a reference of the city of Prizren.



*Zambaku i Prizrenit (Lily of Prizren)* is a traditional song festival which is organized during the first week of July.



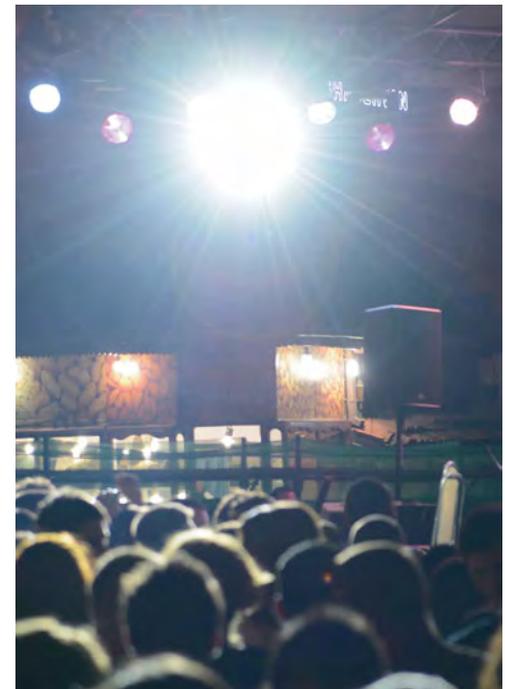
*Flutrat (Butterflies)* is a musical festival dedicated to children, which traditionally is organized during June.



*Festival of comic-books* and caricature is organized every year during the month of September and is the only festival of its kind in Kosovo, which has an international character.



*NGOM Fest*, is a music festival, organized during the last week of June and brings popular and alternative bands from Kosovo, the region and Europe.





**40 Bunar Fest** is held in the second week of June. Is attractive festival, where the main activity is flowing through the River Lumbardhi with the rubber tire.



*Folk dance festival “Hasi Jehon”* is organized in the first week of May and it’s a traditional festival that aims to preserve the traditions of folklore through dance and traditional clothing.





***Ura e Artit (The Bridge of Art)*** is held in the second week of June, and this festival is attended by a large number of artists from the country and the region, where they exhibit their works in the city center.



***Festival of Sculpture – SculpFest*** is organized twice a year, in February and September. It's an activity with educational and recreational character.



*“Old-Timers” Fest* is organized in the last week of May. Numerous fans from the region exhibit their classic cars in various parts of the city.



*The traditional wrestlers’* competition is organized every year in the summer months in Opoja land, Gora and Zupa valley. This is a festival whose roots date back centuries ago.





# Clothing and folklore

If you observe a wedding ceremony in the city of Prizren, which often takes place during the summer, you will witness traditional and trendy outfits. Women are coated with white Dimi, silky white Gjymlek, silver waist belt, vest (doublet) or in kaftan they put their jewelries. This is a short survey. Prizren has the harmony and interaction even in different ethnic outfits. Here live in harmony: the Albanians, Turks, Bosniaks, Serbs, Gorani, Roma and many other groups. They live in time peace and tolerance with beautiful dresses and models which demonstrate traditional similarity, but they differ in clothing lines and the good symbol interaction.

Some characteristic components of the traditional clothing in Prizren region are: shirts, kracas, dimias, silk shirts, doublet, aprons, socks, opingas, mafes, scarf, jewelry (mostly in Opoja); shirts, two aprons, socks (Has); scarf with different colors, long shirt, long herk, jacket, overcoat with many patterns, nausea and woolen socks with different colors (in the area of Gora).

Prizren is known for the durability of its folklore and popular traditions, which are preserved even today, although the folklore now is an artistic creation that performs a very different function from the first one. As in the past, even today in this city is present the cultural and artistic tradition. Among artistic and cultural associations still active in preserving the folklore traditions (dances, songs, and outfits) are: Agimi, Lidhja e Prirenit, Dogru Yol, Durmish Asllano, Emin Duraku and Sharski Behar. However, the first layer of folklore (legends, ritual songs, dances, stories and proverbs) remains a living relic that these creations are saved yet passed today from one generation to another, not only as pieces of art but also as substantial elements that explain the authenticity of a society and civilization.





Folklore events with traditional clothing from CAA *"Dogru Yol"* (above) and CAA *"Durmish Asllano"* (below).







Cultural and artistic associations while enshrining the popular traditions: *CAA Sharski Behar* (top left), *CAA Emin Duraku* (below), and *CAA Lidhja e Prizrenit* (top right).







Exposing the values of traditional clothes from members of *CAA Malsori* (right page), and folk motifs from an event of the *CAA Agimi* (left page).

Gorani folk traditions - decorated Bride to save her from the evil eye.





# Cuisine

Without doubt one of the greatest pleasures of mankind is yummy food and the taste of food in Prizren is made from the roasted meat and graceful water in a table. This delicious food in this particular city is a product of long experience, which is inherited from one generation to another. Preparation does not include anything other than the tradition. During the preparation of these meals, cooking is simple and cozy but with experience. For the preparation of food local chiefs have created enough experience associated with a long tradition and modernity strengthened today.

Prizren is known for the dough products, among which stand out: Pogaqa, Toplia, Pitajka, Pitja (pie) and Flija. Prizren's traditional dishes constitute the essence of Prizren cuisine. Qervish with meatballs, peppers with cottage cheese, casserole Prizren, Dolmas, Musaka, Sarma, Beans, Goulash, Burjan with meet, Elbasan casserole are some of the most prominent dishes of Prizren.

Also, Prizren cultivates a certain number of sweets, among whom, sheqerpare, tepsishte, baklava, Sutliash, tullumba and havlla are the most favorites.







*Sharri cheese*, sheep milk, seed, salt and water.

*Toplia*, a special dough and curd.





*Pitajka with eggs* dough, eggs, curd, dill, parsley, black cumin.



*Pie* dough (foil), butter, meat, spinach, curd, cabbage.



**Tavë Prizreni (Prizren casserole)** meat, onions, peppers, tomatoes, okra, black eggplant, zucchini, carrots.



**Sarma** minced meat, rice, cabbage or grape sheets.



*Paqa* flour, water, butter, meat nuggets.



*Tespishte* flour, sugar, butter, nuts, water.





# Nature

Prizren is among natural cities, where the intervention of the human hand is quite small in comparison to the beauty that nature has created. Around this perfect natural and geographic context and quite convenient relief is built the architecture and the civilization of Prizren within centuries.

Sharr Mountains lie in the south-eastern part of the country, starting from the vicinity of Prizren and go aslant with tops or beads in pyramid shapes, lined up one after the other or as it is called since Antiquity by Illyrian people, the tops of the sawmill, from the similarity of the beads with sawmill, which form successive figures feature in the heart of the Balkans. Also they extend from the northwestern part of Macedonia to northeastern Albania. Sharr Mountains are known since antiquity in different authors papers from the fifth century BC named Mont Skardus, by Herodotus, who described the Illyrian tribes and their borders. During the centuries these ridges served as natural defending walls from the barbarian attacks, towards Macedonia and Greece,

where they were considered as insurmountable.

Later, with the arrival of the Turks in the Balkans, Sharr Mountains were called Car-Dagh, in Ottoman and European documents. Highest peak from the start of these ranges, it is thought to be named with French origin, from the expression "Scenic View", "le bo Ten", which was then used in the nation as Maja Luboteni which culminates 2553m above sea level. Mountain system is about 80 kilometers long and 10 to 30 kilometers wide. Sharr Mountain fauna includes many rare and endangered animals. These include a number of mammals, such as bears, lynx, wild boar, wolf, deer, chamois and mountain birds like eagles, mountain grouse, crows fierce, hawk, owl and vulture.





***Prevala*** is a tourist village which is about 30 km away from Prizren. It is used in all four seasons of the year but especially in the summer, for rest and refreshment and in winter for skiing. Prevala is part of the Shar Mountains. Its height is about 1800m.

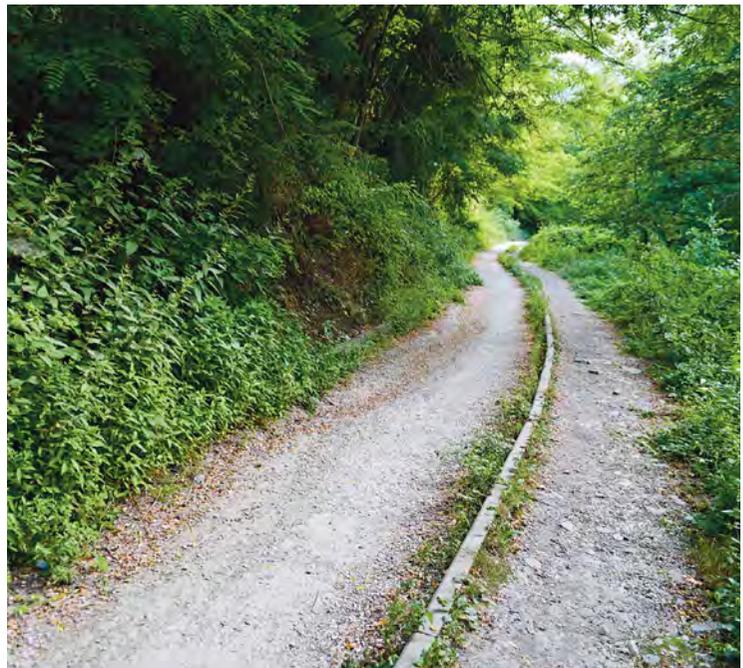






**Recane** is one of popular and favorite places for the weekend for the citizens of Prizren and the citizens of other cities of Kosovo and Albania. Village Recane, populated mainly by Bosniaks, offers various specialties and plenty of delicious meat and fish dishes. Rocky Mountains of Reçana that reach a height of 1 km distance, create the impression of sky coverage and entry into another reality natural, covered with rocks and stones.

Along the route to Prizren are found 13 caves in height of 960 meters, which were used as shelter by monks and are decorated with frescoes. Lumbardhi is faithful companion throughout the journey along the road to Prizren, being the only break to monotony and absolute tranquility in certain places.

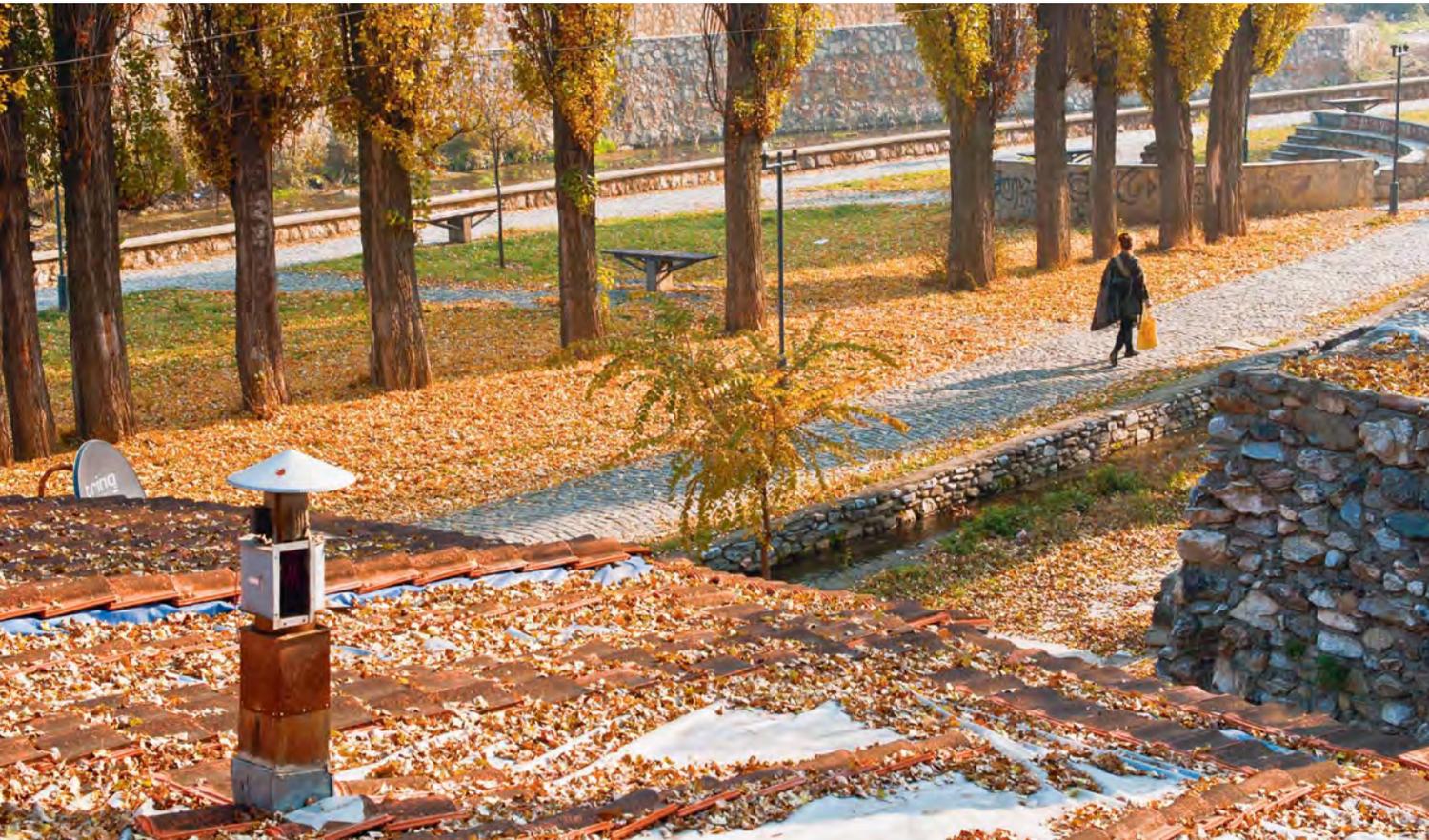




***The Source of Lumbardhi*** - Springs from homogeneous top of Sharr Mountain in quota of 2360m and flows south of the village of Kobe in the White Drin, in a length of 35.5km. Lumbardh source region is silicate glacial circus of high mountains with two small lakes. This region is characterized by special ecological, geological, biological and landscape values. Within this reservate is the upper flow of Lumbardhi of Prizren in a length of 8km and two lakes of Gornjasello.



*Marash* is the first neighborhood of Prizren from Prevala, where intertwine multiple masterpieces and civilizations of different times. Old houses of the city, Pintolli milling, Maksut Pasha Mosque from 1833, old and unique plane tree, Sa'adi order tekke and freshness and vitality of afternoon and night walks are features that make Marash one of the most attractive neighborhoods of the city. The neighborhood is named by Persian word meaning a place of freshness, as there is the meeting point of the warm current from Plain Dukagjini and that the cold of the Sharr Mountains and for this it feels very fresh.



*Marash Park* is located in the neighborhood of Marash. This park is a green spot near the river and half surrounded by mountains and the castle above.





*Plane tree* in Marash is many centuries old and in its roots stems fresh water continuously. In plane water, the city's Orthodox residents throw a cross during their religious holiday.



**Black Lake** is one of the many lakes located in Sharri Mountains; this lake is located about 50 minutes away to the north-east of Lake Jazhinca and in root tip of the lake. It is the most isolated lake in Sharri Mountains; it cannot be seen easily except from the top of the Lake and the back that separates it from Jazhinca Lake. No doubt, it is the most attractive lake of Sharri Mountains, as its size resembles to one of a basin. The water level in the lake is unchanged, with a maximum depth of approximately 3.5 m.



**Fishing** is a recreational sport that has a long tradition in Prizren since the city lies in the vicinity of the two rivers. The first one, Lumëbardhi goes right in the center of the city, which has few native trout, and the second, White Drin, which is located 10 km in the west of Prizren. The fish in this river are miscellaneous, such as: carp, jack, eel, pilchard, etc. There is the fishermen's association called "White Drin".

**Outdoor camping** is one of the natural attractions of Prizren.





*Information*

# *Cultural institutions and organizations in Prizren*

**Department for tourism and economic development**  
dtzhepz@gmail.com

**Department for Culture, Municipality of Prizren**  
www.kk.rks-gov.net/prizren

**Tourist Association Southern Region of Kosovo**  
www.atrjk-ks.org

**Institute for protection of cultural monuments**  
www.mkrs-ks.org

**Cultural heritage without borders**  
www.chwbkosovo.org

**Institute Yunus Emre**  
prizren@yunusemrevakfi.com.tr

**Regional library and Cultural House Prizren**  
+38129223033

**Cultural heritage foundation**  
www.heritage-ks.com

**Network of Cultural Organizations RROK**  
www.rrok.com

**EC Ma Ndryshe**  
www.ecmandryshe.org

**Dokufest**  
www.dokufest.com

**Ngom**  
www.ngomfest.com

**Ura e artit**  
uraeartit@yahoo.com

**ICEC**  
www.icec-ks.org

**Old Timer Club**  
www.oldtimerclubprizren.com

**Mountaineers Association Sharri**  
shbsharripz@yahoo.com

**SculpFest**  
www.sculpfest.com

**Xhennet Comics**  
xhennetcomics.blogspot.com

**Cultural Artistic Association Agimi**  
shka.agimi@gmail.com

**AKV Lidhja e Prizrenit**  
akv-lidhjaeprizrenit@hotmail.com

**Cultural Artistic Association Dogruyol**  
www.dogruyol-tksd.com

**Durmish Asllano**  
durmishaslano69@yahoo.com

**Artistic ensemble Emin Duraku**  
www.ansambli-zhur.webs.com

www.prizren360.com





Katalogimi në botim – (CIP)  
Biblioteka Kombëtare dhe Universitare e Kosovës

008(496.51)(085.2)  
725.64(496.51)(085.2)  
908(496.51)(085.2)

Prizren : venue of civilizations / editor Samir Karahoda.  
Prizren : Komuna e Prizrenit, 2012. - 127  
f. : ilustr. me ngjyra ; 25 cm.

Parathënie : f. 7

1.Karahoda, Samir

**ISBN 978-9951-636-00-1**

