



# PAR

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION REFORM

#KosovaPAR2024

# ABOUT KOSOVA

The Republic of Kosova is a state established on 17.02.2008, located in south-eastern Europe, in the central part of the Balkan Peninsula. In the south-west it borders with Albania, in the north-west with Montenegro, in the north with Serbia, and in the east and south-west with Macedonia. Topographically, Kosova represents a flat basin surrounded by high mountains on all sides.

The land inhabited by Albanians today, including today's territory of Kosova, began to be populated very early, in the Paleolithic era, over 100,000 years ago. A large number of settlements are known such as in the present-day territory of Kosova, such as the Radac and Karamakaz caves, as well as other smaller caves. Population of the present-day territory of Kosova greatly increased in the Neolithic period.

Kosova's declaration of independence and its international recognition in Pristina are considered the most important date in Kosova's history. The efforts of Kosovars and the majority population for freedom date back a century, while efforts to create an independent state date back a long time.

Albanians are one of the oldest and indigenous peoples of the Balkans. Known by many names as "illyrian", "Albanian", "Arbëreshe", "Albanian", the Albanian people are among the founders of civilization on the Peninsula and among the most authentic contributors to the culture and civilization of the European Continent. Great world and Albanian historians and scholars such as Thuman, Hahn, Shuflai, Stipcevic, Hosch, Cabej, Buddha, Zheliskova have proved with their historical and linguistic studies the indigenous, authentic and contribution of Albanians in this Region of more than three thousand and more. five hundred years. (3500 years).

The ancient Albanians stretched across the main part of the Balkans, from the North of the Adriatic Sea down to the South of the Ionian Sea, from the West Coast to the East in the Danube Valley. This area constituted a rich, rugged and highly fragmented terrain, leaving traces of Albanian settlements, culture, and integration throughout the centuries.

Freedom of belief is one of the fundamental human rights. Therefore, in Kosova, every citizen has every right to religious determination, including the freedom to have or not to have a religion, to maintain or change a religion, to manifest religion publicly or privately. This is protected by law from state bodies.

In Kosova, there is a rich cultural life with numerous activities, organizations and events of local, national and international character. In addition to the development and development of cultural policies in the country, there is also a promotion and cultural dialogue in order to penetrate our culture internationally not only as a participation but also as a competition.

Architecture as part of the articulation of tradition and ideas in Kosova is expressed through the construction of various objects such as special spiritual ones but also other objects, ranging from residential buildings known as towers, hospices to public or government buildings., as well as the urban forms of medieval cities such as forts and to this day.

Towers as residential buildings are traditional family buildings on the basis of which further secular buildings and clock towers were designed and constructed. Other forms were designed and put into service for other purposes and when they were systematized and an infrastructure network was created between them they created forts. Among the most organized settlements in the Middle Ages is the famous Prizen Castle.



# TO LEARN MORE ABOUT PRISHTINA, KOSOVË:



<https://visitkosovo.rks-gov.net/>

<https://visitkosovo.rks-gov.net/page/prishtina>

<https://visitkosovo.rks-gov.net/page/atraksione-kulturore>

## CAPITAL CITY OF KOSOVA

**Prishtina** is known as the largest city and the capital of Kosova. The origin of the city of Prishtina is still unknown, but there are some assumptions that support the Illyrian source of the word, or the Latin one (former *pristinus*).

Prishtina has a population of 198,214 inhabitants. Since the 1960s, Prishtina has been experiencing a rapid urban development that changes its appearance from a small town with Ottoman features to a contemporary city.

The 1970s bring a fundamental change in the character of the city, influenced by the opening of the University of Prishtina and increasing Prishtina's political influence by gaining Kosova's autonomy and federal factorization in the former Yugoslavia. In these two decades, the neighborhoods Ulpiana, Dardania, Lakrishtja, Bregu i Diellit, Arbëria (former Dragodani) and all the identification objects of Prishtina are built.





# PRISTINA

**Ancient History and Ethnology**  
 Prishtina is located in the central part of the Balkan Peninsula and traces back to the Neolithic era. The ancient town of Ulpiana is located near by a town established in the 2nd century and was inhabited until the 7th century. The town was abandoned after the year 518 following a devastating earthquake. Gracanica, where an orthodox church is located, is also near Prishtina. This church was built in 1321 on the ruins of a 6th century church. In the foundation of this church are visible the plaques with Latin inscriptions. There are numerous hypotheses about the ethnology of the name Prishtina, but it is still not known.

**14th to 19th Century**  
 The first historic document that mentioned the name Prishtina dates back to 1342 when the Byzantine Emperor John VI Kantakouzenos described it as a "gated village without walls". Prishtina fell under the Ottoman occupation after the Kosovo's Battle (1389). This battle marked the end of the Serb reign in Kosovo and the end of the Byzantine period. The first records noted in the Ottoman registers in 1477 describe Prishtina as a location with nine neighbourhoods and 351 houses. The Ottoman period recorded Prishtina's development through mainly religious, but also public buildings, hamams, mosques, wells, streets, inns and markets were built during this time.

Prishtina also was a commercial centre during this time, and from the 17th to the 19th centuries, the city organised international trade fairs. Merchants from various countries visited the fair for business. In the meantime, in the 19th century, Emin Gjiku's house was turned into the first museum, with an exhibition of numerous family items.

From 1863 until 1897, Prishtina became the capital city of Kosovo's Vilayet. During this time, the city just like the rest of the Ottoman Empire - marked the first influences of the European architecture. In 1874, Prishtina had its first train station, which was built by the British.

**20th Century**  
 Prishtina was liberated from the Ottoman occupation in 1912 by the liberation forces led by Hasan Prishtina. Later that year, the city was occupied by the Serbian forces. In 1915, it fell under the Bulgarian rule until 1918, when the French forces put it under the Yugoslav Kingdom's occupation. This period was marked with intensive programs of Serbian colonialism, accompanied with expropriation of Albanian properties. Subsequently, this resulted in exodus of Albanians from Prishtina to Turkey, establishing there a migrant community that still lives there.

Prishtina fell under Italian occupation in 1941, during Italy's military campaign during World War II, becoming part of the Italian-occupied Albania. Then, it was briefly occupied by Germany, and after WWII, Kosovo became an autonomous



**The Stone Mosque**  
 It is the oldest remaining building in Prishtina. The mosque started to be built in 1392, only three years after the Battle of Kosovo. Its construction began under Sultan Bayezid, and it was finished under Sultan Fatih. Its key feature is the stone minaret.

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**Youth and Sports Palace**  
 16 Built in 1977. It has 10,000 square meters. The Palace has two sports courts, two congress halls, a library, the mall, and underground and open parking places. It was named "Boro and Ramiz" in honour of two Yugoslav partisans and heroes: a Serb Boro Vukimirovic and an Albanian, Ramiz Sadiku, to promote the SFRY propagandistic ideas of fraternity and unity. In 2000, a part of the building, including one of the sports halls were damaged in a fire never to be repaired.

**Sultan's Mosque**  
 10 was built on orders by Sultan Mehmet Fatih II - the Conqueror. Based on the inscriptions in Arab language above the entrance, the mosque was built in 1461. The mosque was turned into a catholic church during the Austro-Turkish war at the end of 17th century. Pjeter Bogdani, one of the first Albanian writers, was buried there. Following the defeat of the war by the Austrians in 1690, Bogdani's remains were exhumed and thrown on the streets by the Turkish forces, and the building was reversed to its prior function.

province of the Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia. Prishtina became Kosovo's capital city in 1947. In 1953, an urban plan for a "modern city of 50,000 people" was developed. The city would be built on the ruins of the old town. During the 1950-1970, under the motto "destroy the old, build the new", numerous parts of city's neighbourhoods were destroyed to build apartment buildings, administrative and health buildings, schools, squares and monuments. Fragments of the old neighbourhoods remain in what is now known as Prishtina's Historic Centre, such as the Clock Tower, the Stone Mosque, the Imperial Mosque, etc. In 1988, the two rivers, Pristevka and Velicka, were covered.

**Constitution of 1992**  
 Kosovo's status changed with the approval of the Constitution of Kosovo, which de facto gave to the province the status of a republic within Yugoslavia, although de jure, the province was considered part of Serbia. Kosovo had all the rights that other republics had, with the exception of the right to secede. This Constitution provided for the opening of the University of Prishtina in the Albanian language, and employment of Albanians, as the majority community, increased significantly. This brought a new reality in Prishtina and Kosovo. This period is well known for major investments in the city, including establishment of neighbourhoods like Bregu i Diellit, Dardania, and Ulpiana. The National Library of Kosovo, Rilindja, the Youth Palace, known as Boro and Ramiz, were also built during this time. This period of prosperity continued until 1989, when dissolution of Yugoslavia brought new measures for Kosovo's status.

**The 1990s and the Kosovo**  
 Following suppression of Kosovo's autonomy in 1989, Albanian intellectuals formed the



**National Library of Kosovo**  
 12 Built in 1974 based on design by the Croat architect Andrija Mutnjakovic. Architecturally, the Library's building is a combination of cubes and domes, and it belongs to the "new regionalism" architecture. In total, there are 79 domes divided in segments that look like brain and symbolic knowledge. The four-floored building has 16,500 square meters; 13,500 square meters of this building are usable. The Library has reading halls, periodicals hall, book preservation facilities, photo-lab, book binding room, storages, administrative areas, and two amphitheatres. The National and University Library of Kosovo, formerly known as the People's and University Library of Kosovo, is located in this building since 1982.

the Assembly, the Government, schools, banks, university hospitals and sports fields. Albanians were expelled from their jobs. Apart from segregation, this decade is known also for increase of violence against Kosovans and mass depopulation of population from Kosovo. Only during March-June 1999, about one million Albanians were driven out of Kosovo to the neighbouring and other European countries.

Following almost a decade of peaceful resistance through the parallel system, in 1998 a guerilla war began between the Albanians and mass depopulation of population from Kosovo. The Kumanovo Agreement, which was signed on 9 June 1999 brought stability in Kosovo; withdrawal of Serb forces from the country and return of Kosovo's people to their homes.

**21st Century**  
 After the liberation, Prishtina became the capital city of Kosovo, which was put under an international protectorate - the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). This protectorate lasted until 2008 when Kosovo declared its independence. The U.S., U.K., France, Germany, Italy immediately recognised

Police (Landline)	038/19	Police (Cell)	2 192	Agency Medical Fire	194	Fire Fighters	193	University and Clinical Centre of	00383(0) 500-600	Emergency Clinic	00383(0) 500 094
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**GODDESS ON THE THRONE**  
 Is the city's symbol since 1999. The terracotta figurine was found near Prishtina and it is thought to be about 6000 years old.



**Emin Gjiku Complex**  
 3 Until 1990, this complex was a Museum of Nature, but since 2013, it was turned into an Ethnological Museum, housing a vast collection of cultural heritage - both tangible and intangible items. The stone house, restored in this location in 1960, is the only building remaining from the Old Bazaar (Çarshija). As a whole, Emin Gjiku complex remains one of the finest examples of the mid-19th century town houses. In September 2006, Emin Gjiku Ethnological Museum was opened, as a component of the Museum of Kosovo, with an exhibition that show life in Kosovo in the ethnological aspect during the 18th and 19th centuries.

**IN NUMB3RS**  
 1342 Is the year when Prishtina was mentioned for the first time with the current name.  
 1392 Is the year of the oldest recorded building.  
 200k Prishtina officially has 200,000 citizens, but data show that there are at least 500,000 living in the city.  
 79 Is the number of the domes of the National Library of Kosovo, an iconic building of the city.

**Bear Sanctuary**  
 81 Bear Sanctuary Prishtina is a national park located near Prishtina. For many years, there was a law against holding brown bears in captivity in Kosovo. These bears were kept in small cages close to restaurants. They were mainly taken from their mothers from Kosovo's or Albania's forests by the animal traders. They were held in captivity in restaurant grounds to amuse customers so that the restaurant owners could profit. In November 2010, it became unlawful to keep bears in private grounds, there was a need for a national park/shelter to house the bears rescued from captivity. Bear Sanctuary Prishtina was established in 2013 by Four Paws Austria, in co-operation with KFQR, the city of Prishtina, Ministry of Environment of Kosovo, and Frankle's Partner Law Firm. Bear Sanctuary provides suitable shelter for all the restaurant bears, with an environment that resembles the natural habitat of bears.

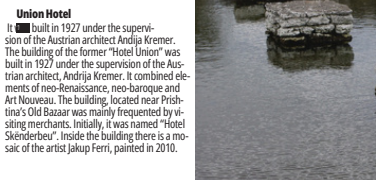
**Ulpiana Archaeological Site**  
 82 Ulpiana, also known as Municipium Ulpiana and Justiniana Secunda, is an old Roman town in the outskirts of Gracanica since the end of 2nd century, achieving its highest peak of development between the 3rd and 4th centuries. During this period of time, the town was assessed as the Municipium Ulpiana Splendissima - the splendid Municipium of Ulpiana, characterized with road nets, orthogonal construction system, water supply, drainage, houses, buildings and various other public, sacral, profane and utilitarian buildings. The town was renamed into Justiniana Secunda during the Emperor Justinian rule in the 6th century. During the Roman era, Ulpiana was one of the most active and frequented centres connecting Constantinople with Rome, because the town was close to the crossroads connecting the Adriatic and the Aegean coasts, and indirectly even with the Black Sea, as well as due to proximity to the Via Lissus-Naisus and Scupi crossroads.



**Union Hotel**  
 83 built in 1927 under the supervision of the Austrian architect Andrija Kremer. The building of the former "Hotel Union" was built in 1927 under the supervision of the Austrian architect, Andrija Kremer. It combined elements of neo-Renaissance, neo-baroque and Art Nouveau. The building, located near Prishtina's Old Bazaar was mainly frequented by visiting merchants. Initially, it was named "Hotel Skenderbeu". Inside the building there is a mosaic of the artist Jakup Ferri, painted in 2010.

**Newborn Monument**  
 84 the topographical sculpture symbolizing 17th of February 2008, Kosovo's Independence Day. It is placed in front of the Youth and Sports Palace. The monument was built in ten days only in order to be finished before the declaration of the independence. Initially, the letters were in yellow, but traditionally, they are repainted every 17th of February. The monument is 3 meters high, 24 meters long and 0.9 meter thick, and weighs about 9 tons.

**Old Town**  
 85 Centre of Prishtina or the Historic Zone of Prishtina includes a vast number of cultural heritage buildings located in the old part of the city, that used to be the core of the city. All the social, administrative, economic, artisanal, political, cultural and educational activities of the city took part in this area. City's Bazaar, hamam, inns, stores, mosques, private houses and the Clock Tower were elements that composed the core of old Prishtina. This area - the Historic Centre or Zone of Prishtina - is now under protection.



**Bars and Cafés** - Are distinguished parts of the way of living in Prishtina. There are whole streets filled with bars and cafés. Among the most famous and most frequented bars and cafés are located in the "Kafet e rralise" and "Little cafes" streets. The beverage of choice in these bars are traditional rakia and beer. These sites also serve food, including fast and traditional food.

This brochure is designed to serve as a short guide of the history of Prishtina. The material was collected by a working group, established by the Municipality of Prishtina in 2018, and it is organised chronologically. A portion of the most characteristic data is noted down separately in the end. The narrative is used in informational material of the Municipality of Prishtina in tourism, culture and other fields. Photographs and all other materials used in this brochure are public domain and may be copied, used and reprinted.



Municipality of Prishtina  
 UÇK Street, nr.  
 prishtinaonline.com



Bill Clinton Statue  
 The statue of the former President of the United States, Bill Clinton was sculpted by Ilija Zekovic in 1997 and it was built in 1999. The Fraternity & Unity monument was built during a time when major changes were happening in the capital city of Kosovo. The Yugoslav authorities brought a new spirit of socialist realism, manifested also in architecture. According to the artist, the monument symbolises the fraternity of different ethnicities that lived in Prishtina during that time.



The Freedom Monument  
 It was designed by the Serbian sculptor - Bogdan Zekovic in 1957 and it was built in 1959. The Fraternity & Unity monument was built during a time when major changes were happening in the capital city of Kosovo. The Yugoslav authorities brought a new spirit of socialist realism, manifested also in architecture. According to the artist, the monument symbolises the fraternity of different ethnicities that lived in Prishtina during that time.



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Museum of Kosovo  
 The monumental building of the Museum of Kosovo is located in the historic area of Prishtina. It was built in 1885-1886 based on the project of the military offices in Graz for the needs of the Ottoman garrison staff. Until 1975, the building was used by the military command headquarters for the Prishtina region of the former SFRY. In 1980, this building is used as the Museum of Kosovo. The layout of the building is rectangular, and it was constructed with material like stone, brick, wood and marble. The roof was rebuilt and belongs to "mansarda"-type, covered with modern tiles. The frontal part of the building is emphasized by a steady rhythm of openings and symbolized one-winged stairs, with semi-circular layout leading from the ground floor up to the first floor. The Museum of Kosovo was established in 1949.



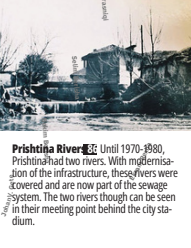
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**Prishtina River** Until 1970-1980, Prishtina had two rivers. With modernisation of the infrastructure, these rivers were covered and are now part of the sewage system. The two rivers though can be seen in their meeting point behind the city stadium.



**Gërmia Park** Gërmia Park is the main city park. It is located in the northeast of Prishtina. It has 1126 ha and is mainly used as a touristic and recreational site. Records show that about one million people visit it during the year.



**Badovci Lake** It is one of the two lakes near Prishtina that supply the city with drinking water. Badovci is closer to Prishtina and is connected with the Gërmia Park. The Bear Sanctuary, a zoological part of Prishtina, is also close to Badovci.



**Mother Theresa Square** Since the mid-2000s, this street, named after Mother Theresa, is closed for vehicular traffic and it is used only as a promenade. It is laid with granite tiles and it has a commercial and cultural role and majority of activities take place there. Skenderbush Square and Zahir Pajaziti Square are on both ends of the street.

**Cathedral** The bell tower of the Mother Theresa Cathedral is among the highest buildings in Prishtina. Its position and height offer a spectacular 360-degree view of the city. The tower provides a view of the most important parts of the city, including the University of Prishtina campus, the western part of the city, giving the visitors a beautiful view of the sunset, and other high buildings. The tower was opened in 2014.

**Monuments and Culture** 1. Union Hotel 2. Kosova Museum 3. Emin Gjiku Complex 4. The Big Hamam 5. The Stone House 6. Domanik House 7. St. Nicholas Church 8. Clock Tower 9. Jashar Mosque The Big Mosque 11. The Stone Mosque 12. Independence Mon. 13. Government of Kosovo 14. Rilindja 15. Radio Njogva 16. Youth Palace 17. National Library 18. Grand Hotel 19. Assembly of Kosovo 20. Former Gërmia Building 21. ElektroKosova Building 22. Kurriji Complex 23. Mother Theresa Cath. 24. Musee of Independence 25. Ibrahim Kodra Museum 26. National Theatre 27. Lapidarum 28. WWII Monument

- Hotels** 29. Hotel Grand 30. Hotel Sirius 31. Swiss Diamond
- Restaurants and Bars** 50. Gagi Restaurant 51. Soma Book Station 52. Kafa e Vogël 53. Mezena 54. Babagomush 55. Osteria Basilico 56. Pajprun 57. Pishat 58. Tirana 59. Ponta Vecchio 60. Napoli 61. Mexican 62. Miqti Taverna 63. Tiffany 64. Thai Restaurant 65. Himalayan Ghorka 66. De Rada 67. Miqti PUB 68. Ditënat
- Others** 78. Galeria Kombëtare 79. Muze i Shëptëpisë Shkollë 80. Bill Clinton Monument 81. Bear Sanctuary 82. Ulpiana Archeo. Site 83. Newborn 84. Gërmia Park 85. Badovci Lake 86. River Delta 87. Mother Theresa Square

**Assembly of Kosovo** Located over the Old Bazaar, initially the building was designed in 1948 by Bogdan Nestorovic, and it was later adapted by the well-known Croat architect, Juraj Neidhardt in 1960. Born in Zagreb, Neidhardt spent most of his life in Sarajevo, and had studied architecture in Vienna from 1932 until 1936, he had worked in Le Corbusier's offices in Paris. Recently, the building underwent major refurbishments, in particular in the Assembly hall, the eastern and southern facade.

**Government Building (Former Kosova Bank)** The building, formerly known as the Kosovo Bank building, was designed by Milan Tomić and Milan Pavlović. It was built in the 1980s and it was the highest building then. Initially, plans were for two identical buildings to be built side by side, but that plan was never realised. The building was bombed during the 1999 war in Kosovo, but it was later refurbished losing its charm.

**Government Building** 33 81 82 85



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