



### Ancient History and Etymology

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. Gračanica, 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 hypothesis about the etymology 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 produce 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 1883 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 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.

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 Serb 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

**Sultan's Mosque** 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 Austrian-Turkish war at the end of 17th century. Pjetër 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, Pribistevka and Vellusha, were covered.

### Constitution of Kosovo

In 1974, 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 war

Following suppression of Kosovo's autonomy in 1989, Albanian intellectuals formed the Kosovo

Democratic League and developed a parallel system, boycotting all the institutions of Serbia and Yugoslavia. Under this system, health and education institutions were carrying out their duties in Albanians' private houses, whereas the Radio Television of Albania broadcast two hours of programming for Kosovo Albanians, which Kosovans watched via satellite.

Serbian regime put under its exclusive administration all the Kosovo's institutions, including



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 deportation 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 guerrilla war began between the Albanians - organised in the Kosovo Liberation Army - and Serbia's armed and paramilitary forces. The violence that ensued against Kosovo Albanians, prompted NATO forces, which acted with the support of the international community, to intervene through its air campaign, forcing Serbia to withdraw 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

the country, and thus, the country embarked on its journey as an independent country. Since 1999, Prishtina has seen major infrastructural and organisational changes. Due to the demand to move into urban area, new neighbourhoods were established, and many old neighbourhoods have been reorganised, and instead of houses, high apartment buildings have been built.

Prishtina today is undergoing a process of planning, reorganisation and reinvention in an institutional level. There are efforts to preserve the cultural heritage buildings that portray the city's rich history. There are new ambitious projects for modern neighbourhoods, institutional and cultural buildings, parks, sports and recreational facilities, and public spaces. Prishtina is on a right path to become a true European capital city.

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University and Clinical Centre of Kosovo <b>00383(0) 500-600</b>	
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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.

### Youth and Sports Palace

It was 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 Vukmirovic 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.

### Grand Hotel

It marks the city's heart. Designed by Bashkim Fehmiu and Dragan Kovacevic. Grand Hotel is one of the key monuments of Prishtina and the most important mark of the 1980s architecture in Kosovo. The initial plans depicted that the back terrace would have been connected via a bridge with the Youth and Sports Palace. The top floor suite is nicknamed "Tito's suite" in honour of the Yugoslav leader, who once stayed in it.

### National Library of Kosovo

It was 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 symbolise knowledge. The four-floored building has 16,500 square meters; 13,500 square meters of this building are usable. The Library has reading halls, periodical's 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.



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, nn,  
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### Bill Clinton Statue

The statue of the former President of the United States, Bill Clinton was sculpted by Izeir Mustafa in 2009. The statue was erected in honour of President Clinton for his help and role during the 1999 war in Kosovo. The sculpture is about 3m high and in the left hand, President Clinton has the "Honoris Causa" title awarded by the University of Prishtina. The statue is located in the square named after President Clinton.

### The Freedom Monument

It was designed by the Serbian sculptor Miodrag Žirković 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.



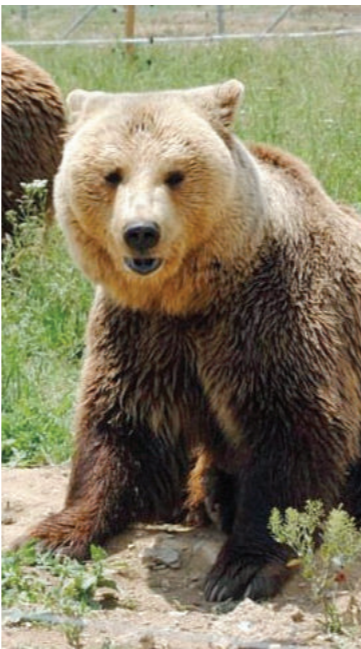
### Bear Sanctuary

Bear Sanctuary Prishtina is a national park located near Prishtina. For many years, there was no 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 KFOR, the city of Prishtina, Ministry of Environment of Kosovo, and Franke & Partner Law Firm. Bear Sanctuary provides suitable shelter for all the restaurant bears, with an environment that resembles the natural habitat of bears.



### Union Hotel

It was built in 1927 under the supervision of the Austrian architect Andija Kremer. The building of the former "Hotel Union" was built in 1927 under the supervision of the Austrian architect, Andija 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 Skënderbeu". Inside the building there is a mosaic of the artist Jakup Ferri, painted in 2010.



### Ulpiana Archaeological Site

Ulpiana, also known as Municipium Ulpiana and Justiniana Secunda, is an old Roman town in the outskirts of Gračanica 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 ascribed 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-Naissus and Scupi crossroads.



### Newborn Monument

It is the typographical 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.



### Museum of Kosovo

The eclectic 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 symmetric emphasized 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.

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 National Library of Kosovo, an iconic building of the city.



### Old Town


Historic 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.

Prishtina has 15 public transportation lines that connect the villages and the neighbourhoods of the city with its centre.




**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 rakisë' 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.




**Prishtina Rivers**  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.



**Since the mid-2000**, 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. Skënderbeu Square and Zahir Pajaziti Square are on both ends of the street.

**Assembly of Kosovo**

**19** Situated 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 offices in Paris. Recently, the building underwent major refurbishments, in particular in the Assembly hall, the eastern and southern facade.

**Government Building (former Kosovo Bank Building)**

**13** This building, formerly known as the Kosovo Bank building, was designed by Milan Tomic and Milan Pavlovic. 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.

**Mother Theresa Square**

**82** It is the pedestrian area of the city. From the 1970s until 2000s, the area served as the city's promenade mainly in the evenings. During the day, the street was used for vehicular traffic.

**Cathedral**

**23** 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 Prishtina. 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. Kosovo Museum
3. Emin Gjiku Complex
4. The Big Hamam
5. The Stone House
6. Domaniku House
7. St. Nicholas Church
8. Clock Tower
9. Jashar Pasha's Mosque
10. The Big Mosque

**Houses and Culture**

11. The Stone Mosque
12. Independence Mon.
13. Government of Kosovo
14. Rilingja
15. Radio Kosovo
16. Youth Palace
17. National Library
18. Grand Hotel
19. Assembly of Kosovo
20. Former Gërmia Building
21. ElektroKosovo Building

**Houses**

22. Kurrizi Complex
23. Mother Theresa Cath.
24. Muse. of Independence
25. Ibrahim Kodra Museum
26. National Theatre
27. Lapidarium
28. WWII Monument

**Houses**

29. Hotel Grand
30. Hotel Sirius
31. Swiss Diamond

32. Hotel Nartel
33. Hotel Emerald
34. Prishtina International
35. Hotel Real
36. Hostel Han
37. Tuba
38. Prishtina Center Hostel
39. White Tree
40. Oda
41. Buffalo Backpackers
42. Mami's Hostel
43. Centre Hostel
44. Guest House Konaku
45. Hotel Garden
46. Hotel Prishtina
47. Hotel Begolli
48. Hotel Prima
49. Hotel Ora

**Restaurants and Bars**

50. Gagi Restaurant
51. Soma Book Station
52. Kafja e Vogel
53. Mezzeria
54. Babaganoush
55. Osteria Basilico
56. Papirun
57. Pishat
58. Tirona
59. Ponte Vecchio
60. Napoli
61. Mexicana
62. Miqt Taverna
63. Tiffany
64. Thai Restaurant
65. Himalayan Ghorka
66. De Rada
67. Miqt PUB
68. Ditenat

**Others**

69. Liburnia Restaurant
70. El Greco Restaurant
71. Piccadilly Burek
72. Prishtina Burek
73. Emini Burek
74. Sonder Bar
75. Sabota
76. Galeria Kombëtare
77. Muz. i Shtëpive Shkolla
78. Bill Clinton Monument
79. Bear Sanctuary
80. Ulpiana Archeo. Site
81. Newborn
82. Gërmia Park
83. Badovci Lake
84. River Delta
85. Mother Theresa Square