



# WELCOME IN GJAKOVA

European Individual Chess Championship 2016

Gjakova, Kosovo 11 - 24.05.2016



## Introduction to Gjakova

Gjakova municipality has an area of 586.91km<sup>2</sup>, it is located in the south-western part of Dukagjini Plain, in the section between the city of Prizren and city of Peja. It is estimated that around 100,000 inhabitants live in Gjakova and approximately (43%) live in the city and (57%) live in 84 rural settlements of Gjakova.

The capital of the Republic of Kosova, Prishtina, is only 92 km away, while Peja and Prizren have a distance of 37 km from Gjakova. Every hour there are buses that come from Prishtina, Peja and Prizren to the beautiful city of Gjakova, it takes about 80 minutes to travel by bus from Prishtina to Gjakova, and from Peja and Prizren it takes about 40 minutes. The city of Gjakova was developed during the XIV - XV centuries around Hadum Mosque, which was built at the end of XVI century.

City of Gjakova had a rich trade and was a significant artisanal centre. This city has an ancient history which lives in its historical and religious monuments. Since the city is not that large, the best way to see and enjoy its beauty and monument is by walking.



A photograph of a historic brick building with arched windows, partially obscured by white cherry blossoms in the foreground. The building is constructed of reddish-brown bricks and features several arched windows with dark shutters. The roof is made of terracotta tiles. In the foreground, there are several branches of white cherry blossoms with green leaves, some in full bloom and others as buds. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

# Historical monuments



## Terezi Bridge

Constructed by Terezi (tailors) Guilds with 11 arches over the Erenik River that served to intensify and facilitate trade relations with Prizren and Skopje. These are vivid evidence that clearly indicates a versatile development and an economic power that had Gjakova back then, whereas the Artisans managed to fund such colossal and costly constructions. This Stone Bridge was built in 1730, whereas its construction lasted for 10 years. The length of this bridge is 192.8 meters and has a width of 5.1 m. Currently this bridge enjoys protection under the Law, since 1962.










The image shows the Taliqi Bridge at night. The bridge is a multi-arched stone structure, illuminated by several tall streetlights that create a starburst effect in the dark sky. The bridge spans a river, and its reflection is visible in the water. In the background, some buildings and more streetlights are visible on the right side. The overall scene is a nighttime urban landscape.

## Taliqi Bridge

Constructed around 1816 over Krena River. It has a length of 21.5m, width of 4.05m and height of 5.0m. Due to the fact that it is located in the central part of the city, it connects some city areas with Çarshia e Madhe (Grand Bazaar). This bridge has historical, cultural, sociological and artistic values. It is protected by law since 1962.



## Tabak's Bridge



Constructed by Tabak's (leather smith) Guilds from Gjakova in 1790. This bridge has a length of 127m and has 14 arches with discharging windows. It served to connect the city of Shkodra with Gjakova. It is written on the protection act that it has historical values (since there are several inscriptions engraved on it) as well as sociological, artistic, cultural and urban values. It is under the protection of the law since 1962.



## Clock Tower

The rapid development of craftsmanship and trade in the city of Gjakova imposed a need to establish a regulation in order to determine the working hours in the city. This tower built in 1595 in Gjakova city centre, which was burned to the ground in 1912 by Montenegrin armed forces. A new Clock Tower exists today.





## Ethnographic Museum



This complex was constructed in 1830. Originally it was owned by Rexhep Haxhismaili. It is two-storey building and the rooftops are decorated with wood-carving. It is under the protection of the law since 1955.



## The stone house of Hysni Koshi

This three-storey stone house, located in the entrance of the Bazaar, was built in the XIX century. Fortified stone houses of Dukagjini Valley were built by Albanian masters, and are distinguished by architectural features and are characterized by their enclosed architecture, with certain features of fortified buildings for protection. It is one of the rare examples preserved within the city. This stone house is under protection of the law since 1980.



The image shows a three-story stone house with a rounded corner on the left side. The upper two floors are constructed from reddish-brown bricks, while the ground floor is made of rough-hewn light-colored stone. The rounded corner features several arched windows with dark frames. A black downspout runs vertically along the corner. To the right, a rectangular section of the building has more windows and a dark doorway at the ground level. The house is surrounded by green trees and a clear blue sky.

## The stone house of Abdullah Pashë Dreni

It is three-story stone house of Abdullah Pasha Dreni made of turret bricks. This stone house was owned by Abdullah Pasha Dreni. The stone house beside architectural values has historical values as well. In this tower, the missionary Mehmet Ali Pasha was killed who arrived in Gjakova to handover to Montenegro and Serbia the Albanian lands, as was provided by the Congress of Berlin. The branch of Albanian League in Gjakova invited its forces comprised of 10 thousand warriors, which were placed throughout the houses in the city, the city was turned into a large military barracks. Food, weapons, doctors and everything else was provided by the citizens of this municipality. Currently, Museum of the branch of Albanian League of Gjakova is located in this stone house.



## The stone house of Mustafa Vokshi

It was built in the XIX century and it is located on Mithat Frasheri Street. This is a two-story stone house made of bricks that belongs to the brother of Sulejman Vokshi, an activist of the Albanian National Movement. The complex is decorated with the Order of Patriotic Activities of the First Class.





## The stone house of Sulejman Vokshi

This stone house was built in the XIX century by the national hero Sulejman Vokshi. He was an activist of the Albanian National Movement, initiator of the establishment of the Albanian League of Prizren and prominent political leader. Sulejman Vokshi was the head of the Albanian League branch in Gjakova and one of the leaders of Albanian fighters during the battles for protection of Plava and Guci. In justifying the protection of this building, it is stated that Sulejman Vokshi was a leader and remarkable commander of the armed forces of the Albanian League of Prizren. He dedicated all of his life for national liberation struggle, and this is the reason why he was confined and exiled about 20 times, whereas in 1885 the Extraordinary Court of Prizren sentenced him to death. This stone house is under protection of the law since 1980.





## Çarshia e Madhe (Grand Bazaar)

It was built when Gjakova gained the status of a city in 1594/1595. It represents one of the greatest monumental complexes not only in Kosovo, even beyond. Its overall surface area is 34 000m<sup>2</sup>. It was a centre of socio-economic and cultural development of Gjakova region. Grand Bazaar had a number of stores in which were developed almost all possible crafts, such as; blacksmith, leather smith, fabric processors, tinsmiths, saddle makers, hat makers, tailors, knife makers, arms makers, etc.

It has great cultural, historical and social values. From urban perspective it presents a vivid example of urban Oriental planning with rich architectural elements and values.





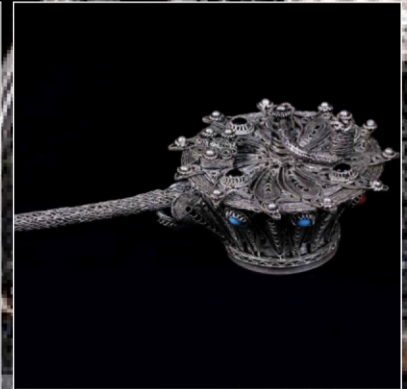




## Artisanal Tradition



Artisanal tradition inherited from our ancestors. It shows the antiquity and diversity of artisanal that took place in Gjakova.





Today, some of these artisans still pursue to be active and they are: fez makers, quilt makers, bakers, tinsmiths, pot makers, watchmakers, saddler makers, blacksmiths, goldsmiths, tailors, leather smiths, embroiderers, etc.





## Hadum Mosque

Hadum Mosque complex is a symbol of the city of Gjakova, and according to the tradition, the beginning of civic life is associated with it. There is a large library near this building, larger than the mosque itself. This mosque is considered a unique monument of Albanian culture, a unique monument in all Albanian lands. It is cultural, educational and religious centre of the city of Gjakova. Interiors are decorated with arabesques, mural paintings, stylized landscapes, in some cases motivated with folk architecture, peaceful nature, plant ornaments, geometric figures, quotes from the Qur'an, etc. The mosque was built from stone in 1594/95, and in 1999 the complex was burned. Upon this occasion it is severely damaged its interior including arabesques and other elements, as well its minaret was partially damaged, only part that survived from this complex. It is under the protection of the law since 1955.





## Mahmut Pasha Mosque



Built in 1802 by the famous family of Kurtpasha. The mosque has two maktab, two hajats and minarets with two drums.



## Saint Ndou Church

Saint Anthony of Padua Sanctuary, once called the Church of Pater Mila as well, who had built this church in 1882, which was later destroyed. In 1931 at the same place, Pater Lorenc Mazreku built today's church. This church was renovated several times, always adhering to the architectural concept which includes the guest house, offices and sanitary nodes.






## Church of St. Paul and St. Peter



In the past Gjakova had a Catholic religious tradition. Over the years the number of Catholics reduced while at the same time its parish ceased being active. First Parish Church in Gjakova was located in Çabrat, and later in catholic neighbourhood. 1999 war destroyed the church completely, that dated back to 1703, and today a new cathedral was built in the same place.



## The Great Tekke



Great Tekke is the oldest Tekke of Saad tarikat throughout Rumelia-old Balkans. Built in the XVII century by Sheh Sulejman Axxhiza Baba. From architectural perspective, the tekke consists of samahane (Ritual Prayer Hall), tomb, dormitory and cemetery.



## The Bektashi Tekke

Bektashi Tekke is located in neighbourhood Qerimi, consisted of two facilities, however, due to urban reasons, this complex is transferred to neighbourhood Hadum. It had a library with manuscripts in Albanian, Arabic, Persian, Ottoman language etc. Among others the works of "Society of Istanbul" and Frashëri brothers as well. The building together with the library was burned in 1999, which contained 1,700 books out of which 180 were original and unique works.





## Great Madrasa



This Islamic religious education centre was built in 1707. The complex consisted of: masjid, classrooms, teachers' room, a rich library with books and manuscripts, cafeteria, student rooms, fountain etc. This building was burned in 1999 by Serbian military forces. Reconstruction of this madras was enabled by prince of Qatar.



A scenic sunset over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm orange and yellow glow across the sky and water. In the foreground, there is a snowy bank on the left with a bare tree and a street lamp. A dark silhouette of a lighthouse or observation tower stands on the right. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

## Quality of Life in Gjakova

Gjakova is rich with many natural resources, hotels and high quality restaurants. There are plenty of activities in the city which make the life of citizens quite attractive. Citizens may spend time at various shopping and recreation centres. Some classy traditional restaurants that are provided for the citizens of Gjakova are:



## Çabrat Hill

Is the symbol of Gjakova which is located in the western part of the city. There is an attractive space with three bars and a restaurant for resting and relaxing.



## Illyricum



located on top of the Çabrat Hill with a magnificent view over the city. It takes only 10 minutes by taxi to be out there where you can enjoy the stunning view of the city. It serves excellent traditional Albanian food, which includes fresh salads, with olives, steaks, etc.

Contact number: 045/558-822



## Hani i Haraqisë



Built in the XVI century, it served as a daily place for trawlers as well it had stables. Today it serves as a restaurant with traditional and modern food, it has a stunning garden with cobblestones, serves excellent food with rare taste, and low prices!

**Contact number: 044/432-083**





Qingji i Ujit

It is one of the restaurants that serves traditional food with favourable prices, as well as it is known for fish. Here you can find fresh traditional grilled fish with various salads and many other traditional soups.

Contact number: 044 207 314



## Hotel Çarshija e Jupave




This hotel is built with solid materials -stones, whereas the architecture is similar to the stone houses that combine the old tradition with contemporary high standards. It offers a quiet and relaxing accommodation with traditional food, conference hall and shopping opportunity at "Çarshia e Madhe". The restaurant is known for its traditional food and for international cuisine. It is located in Str "Ismail Qemali" No. 9.

**Contact number: 044/129-159**



## Hotel La Villa

A photograph of Hotel La Villa at night. The building is a modern, two-story structure with a light-colored facade and a prominent glass-enclosed section on the right. The building is illuminated by warm yellow lights, and the sky is a deep blue. A paved path leads towards the entrance, and there is some landscaping in the foreground.

This hotel has 14 high quality bedrooms and a restaurant with variety of traditional and modern food. This hotel is located in the suburb of Gjakovë, in Shkugëz, and provides a relaxing environment for all ages. Prices range from 30-60 € per night.

**Contact number: 044/133-811**



## Hotel Jakova



Are hotels that offer very good conditions for travellers and tourists with comfortable accommodation. Prices range around 25-70 € per night.

**Contact Jakova: 044/580-103**




Hotel Pashtriku



Contact Pashtriku: 044/547-701



## Erenik River

A photograph of the Erenik River, a mountain stream flowing over large, jagged rocks. The water is white and frothy as it cascades over the rocks, creating a small waterfall effect. The surrounding forest is dense with vibrant green foliage. A large, dark log lies horizontally across the foreground, partially submerged in the water. The rocks are of various colors, including grey, brown, and reddish-orange. The overall scene is a natural, scenic landscape.

It is a field river since it flows through lower parts with an altitude of 300-500m.  
This river stems from Gjeravica Glacier Lake and flows into the Drini i Bardhë River.



## Radoniq Lake



Second largest lake in Kosovo with an area of 5.62 km<sup>2</sup>. It is drinking water source for residents of Gjakova, Rahovec and surrounding villages. It is also used to irrigate agricultural lands.



## Drini i Bardhë River



River with a length of 175km, part of this river flows along road Gjakova-Prizren. This river stems in mountain Zhleb in Peja, near the Radavc village. Annual diving competitions are held by the "Ura e Fshenjt" bridge located above the Drini i Bardhë River. This stone bridge with a semicircular arch was completely destroyed during the First World War and was rebuilt in 1942. The bridge is 37m long, 7m wide and 18.5m high.



An aerial photograph of Gjakova, Kosovo, in winter. The Krena River flows through the city, surrounded by snow-covered roofs and streets. A prominent red building is visible on the right. The background shows snow-covered hills and a cloudy sky.

## Krena River

Krena River flows from north to south direction of Gjakova and discharges into the Erenik River. Krena River flows along side of Çabrat through the Old City and the city centre, that divides Çarshia e Madhe with Çarshia e Vogël. The river length is 37km. There is a small park and a sports field where the Krena River flows next to the city centre.





## Shkugëza

Located at a distance of 3km from the city centre. It is reforested in the 1940's, and today has a very attractive landscape, a peaceful nature, especially during hot summer days. Shkugëza has a beautiful nature, fresh air and can be visited during any season of the year. There are several restaurants for relaxation that makes this part even more attractive place to visit. It is used for running, walking, cycling, etc.





Contact number: 044-127-087



## Villages

Gjakova has a total of 84 villages. Gjakova in the southwest part is bordered by Albania. In this borderline there are a total of 11 villages with farmland, fresh air which are quite attractive to visit. These villages are: Koshare, Molliq, Brovinë, Ponoshec, Qerret, Babaj, Bokë, Devë, Zhub, Zylfaj, Goden and Gërqin.

### Koshare







Babaj Bokës



Botushë



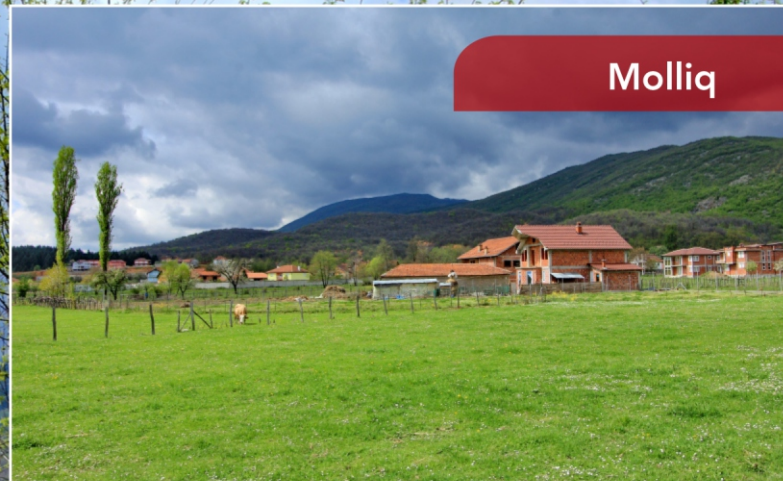
Brovinë



Devë









## LEGJENDA

-  KOMUNA
-  POLICIA (192)
-  SPITALI (193)
-  ZJARFIKSIT (194)
-  POSTA
-  STACIONI I AUTOBUSEVE
-  1 XHAMIA E HADUMIT
-  2 KISHA E SHËN PJETRIT
-  3 TEQJA E MADHE
-  4 SAHAT KULLA
-  5 HANI I HARAÇISË
-  6 TEQJA E BEKTASHIVE
-  7 KULLA E KOSHIT
-  9 KULLA E M.VOKSHIT
-  10 ÇARSHIA E MADHE
-  14 TEATRI I QYTETIT
-  15 MUZEU I ARTIZANATEVE
-  16 MEDRESA E MADHE
-  17 URA E FSHEJT
-  18 URA E TABAKUT
-  19 URA E TERZIVE
-  20 URA E TALIQIT
-  21 ÇABRATI

0 100m 200m 300m 400m





## Stay Safe

Be informed that the security in Gjakova remains high. Therefore you would be much safer than in many major worldwide cities. You may walk around the city at any time with no worries.



Chess Club "Vëllaznimi" was founded in 1971. Members of the chess club "Vëllaznimi" are 100 chess players.





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