

PRISTINA

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2006 - 2007



GJERGJ KASTRIOTI
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Put words like Kosovo and Pristina into Google, and all you get is megabytes of misery. People have been fighting over Kosovo for millennia, each new wave of conquerors and settlers (from Illyrians, Albanians and Slavs to the United Nations) leaving their own proud heritage of monuments and history. After the most recent horrible war, a sense of peace and even hope has finally descended on this unlucky province of Serbia. Kosovo is practically separated from Serbian rule and is currently under UN administration, though nobody seems very happy with the situation. The arrival of Former Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari, who is to broker a deal between all parties, is therefore welcomed by most. Pristina, Kosovo's capital city, has been through some pretty rough times and as a result can not be hyped as the next Prague. But for all of you foreign travellers who are willing to look behind the grey facades and who are willing to deal with the frustrating lack of reliable information concerning everything, there are enough interesting sights to keep you busy, some very good restaurants and bars and last but not least there's the friendliness and curiosity of the local population. Although volatile at times, Kosovo is generally a safe place to visit with some attractive towns with great

Ottoman-era mosques and hamam complexes, medieval Christian-Orthodox churches and monasteries, and beautiful countryside. Enjoy Pristina, and remember to let us know of any changes or comments at pristina@inyourpocket.com.

About this guide

This first issue of Pristina In Your Pocket is the first dedicated English-language guidebook to Kosovo's main city. In Your Pocket guides are written for foreign travellers and residents, and are not meant to increase tourism – merely to provide honest, critical information that makes getting around the city easier for newcomers. As a private and commercial initiative, Pristina In Your Pocket has been written and researched by a team of local and foreign travel guide experts. The opinions in the guide are those of the writers, and are not in any way meant to glorify or denigrate the city, merely to point out the merits and shortcomings that we think foreign travellers should know about. Every guidebook has its faults, so we appreciate any information that would lead to improving the next issue. Emails can be sent to pristina@inyourpocket.com.



Cover story



The new statue of Skanderbeg takes centre stage in Pristina. Gjergj Kastrioti was an Albanian who, based from Kruja near Tirana, bravely fought off the Ottomans, never allowing them to capture his citadel.

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Editor's note

The editorial content of In Your Pocket guides is independent from paid-for advertising. Sponsored listings are clearly marked as such. We welcome all readers' comments and suggestions. We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information at the time of going to press and assume no responsibility for changes and errors.

Arriving by bus

Arriving on a bus can be a terribly depressing experience that does no justice whatsoever to the hidden treasures of the city and the warmth and generosity of its inhabitants. Penny-pinchers who do choose to get to Pristina by bus will be justly rewarded with a dilapidated and extremely non-user-friendly bus station with nothing in the way of facilities beyond a couple of grotty cafés and some kiosks selling bottled water, snacks and cigarettes. There's not even a bus linking it to the city centre, two kilometres away. Taxis are parked outside the main exit. A ride into the city centre will set you back less than €2. Alternatively, it's a 20-30 minute walk; go directly north out until you get to Bul. Bill Clinton and take a right.

Arriving by car

Driving around Kosovo in daylight is fairly easy and straightforward; we wouldn't recommend a nighty trip if it's your first time. If you're planning to drive into Kosovo with a rental car, check carefully if the company allows that. When driving to Pristina from Skopje, keep in mind that the rather important turn for the city centre is not signposted - turn right just before the petrol station near the Victory hotel (the one with the large Statue of Liberty statue on the roof) and keep going straight ahead to the Grand Hotel.

Arriving by plane

Pristina's modern international airport (PRN, www.airportpristina.com) is 16km from the city centre. In the arrivals hall there are two ATMs; to buy a local SIM card or make a call, head to the departures hall (see *Transport*). A taxi ride to the centre will cost about €25 and takes about 20 minutes. The airport bus from right outside the arrivals terminal to the Grand Hotel in the city centre departs daily at 09:00, 11:00, 13:00, 15:00, 17:00 and 18:00; a ticket costs €3 and can be purchased on the bus.

Arriving by train

Trains from Skopje and within Kosovo all pass through the **Fushë Kosovë train station**, which is Kosovo's main railway hub, seven kilometres west of central Pristina. Hop onto a N°1 kombi minibus outside, which go to the eastern end of Bul. Bill Clinton every 5-10 minutes, and cost €0.40. Using a taxi will cost €7-10. Some trains, including the one from Skopje, continue to **Pristina station**, which can be found at the western end of Rruga Garibaldi. You can walk to the centre in under 10 minutes, or get a taxi - though don't count on seeing any waiting outside.

Pristina districts

Pristina's centre ('qendra') is surrounded by low hills with several districts draped on them. Velania, to the east between the centre and Gernia park has upmarket housing, the city park, and is best known as the place where President Rugova used to live – and where he now lies buried. Just south of Velania is Bregu i Diellit, better known as Sunny Hill. South of the centre, Ulpiana is the high-rise modern district east of Bul. i Dëshmoreve, Dardania is west of it. The roads in Arberia, the district across the railway on the steep hillside west of the centre, are crammed with the white four wheel drive cars of the international community expats living here. To the north of the centre lies Kodra e Trimave. As a foreign visitor, you'll probably only ever need to leave the centre to visit Velania, where there are several hotels, and perhaps Arberia which is home to some good restaurants. The area known as Qyteza Pejton is the district south of the UNMIK offices, between Rr. Garibaldi, Bul. Nene Teresa and Bul. Bill Clinton.



Europe In Your Pocket



There are now more *In Your Pockets* than ever before. We continue to expand, with new guides now available in **Łódź** (Poland), **Pristina** (Kosovo), **Shkodra** (Albania) and **Skopje** (Macedonia). All this in addition to the **eight** new guides now available in **Germany**. In all, *In Your Pocket* now publishes city guides in 40 cities in 18 countries. And more are on the way; watch out for *In Your Pocket* guides in **Serbia** and on the **Isle of Man** later this year. If you want to be a part of the Pocket group, publishing your own guide, contact us at publisher@inyourpocket.com for more details.

An alphabetical listing of seemingly random useful facts for the traveller.

Crime & Safety

The well-being of honoured guests (you) is a major source of concern and pride for the locals, and rather than being mugged, you're more likely to be overwhelmed with hospitality. Despite the locals' friendly attitude, it's important to stay alert for petty crime such as bag-snatching and hotel room or house burglaries. Lock up your valuables in the safe or leave them at home, and don't wander around unlit alleys at night. Pedestrians should be aware of holes in or bits of metal sticking out of the pavement, missing sewer lids and surprisingly deep puddles. Outside Pristina, if you don't know the area, don't leave asphalt or well trodden paths as there still are some mines.

Electricity

Electricity is the ubiquitous energy product that powers the whole of Europe with the exception of Kosovo, where they've chosen the rather novel approach of switching it off for large periods of the day and night. When it works, electrical current is 220 Volts and is distributed by Kosovo's KEK electricity company via standard European plugs. There are daily power cuts, effectively caused by nobody bothering to pay their electricity bills, and nobody really willing to do anything about it. Electricity in Kosovo is divided into three categories, namely A, B and C. Categories are assigned according to how good individual areas of each municipality are at paying their electricity bills. Under normal circumstances category A means an uninterrupted flow of the stuff. Category B is on for five hours then off for one, and category C entitles you to four on and two off. Under so-called extraordinary circumstances category A becomes B, B becomes C, and C has to suffer power cuts for fifty percent of the time. This makes living (and socialising) a bit of an adventure to say the least. The daily ritual of revving up the smelly little home generator outside all restaurants and shops is the defining and deafening sound of Pristina. In short, bring a torch. In winter, it's important to ask if your room heaters run on electricity, and if the hotel has a back-up generators. If you're living here, keep in mind that if there's no electricity you'll probably also lose water pressure, so it's a good idea to keep a few buckets of water handy just in case Pristina goes Iron Age while you're shaving.

Health

Pristina can get very dusty when the wind from the west brings in dust pumped out of the electricity plant near town – don't wear your white suit. Although the locals say the water is safe to drink, it's probably best to stick to bottled water, which is readily available. Support the fledgling local economy and buy the local Ola and Bonita brands.

Money

The euro (€), subdivided in 100 cents) and the Serbian dinar are both official currencies of Kosovo, though dinars are only really accepted in Serb-majority areas. Banknotes come in denominations of €5, €10, €20, €50, €100, €200 and €500, and can look pretty crummy as they're not replaced as often as in eurozone countries. The coins, whose design depends on in which country they were minted in, come in denominations of €0.01, €0.02, €0.05, €0.10, €0.20, €0.50, €1 and €2. Cash is still king in Kosovo, and carrying some around with you will make life much easier as credit and debit cards are still only really being accepted by the more exclusive hotels and restaurants as well as in the larger supermarkets.

If you do use your credit card, be very wary of card fraud, and do not ever lose your card out of sight – walk behind the bar with the waiter if you have to. Although you can change cash in banks and exchange offices and with grinning men in black leather jackets, ATMs are really the best way to get cash – see *Directory* for more information.

Pristina@

Apart from the Pristina pages at www.inyourpocket.com there are still very few good online resources for Pristina and Kosovo in general. Here are the few we actually recommend.
www.maps.pr-tech.net - Better than any map, this zoomable satellite picture of Pristina shows you how it really is on the ground.
www.crisisgroup.org - Ongoing online analysis of the 'situation' on their Kosovo pages.
www.mtcowgirl.us – an informative blog by an international working in Pristina

Religion

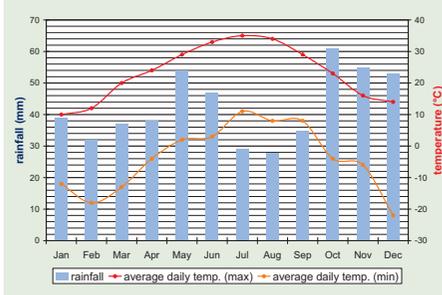
Kosovar Albanians are officially mainly Muslims, although an unwitting traveller would hardly notice in urban areas. Kosovo, like Albania, is quite secular and can not be compared with more religious places like Turkey or countries in the Middle East. Although pork is not readily available, drinking and smoking are practiced with enthusiasm, headscarves are not worn by many women, and mosque attendance is insignificant compared to the aforementioned countries. Showing deep affection in public is not much done (though we found a sandwich bar on Rruga Kodra with a corner upstairs where boys and girls can have a snog). Kosovar Serbs are mainly Orthodox Christians, a religion that has been around here since early medieval times, witness the many magnificent monasteries.

Street names

Pristina has street names, with 'rruga' meaning street and 'sheshi' meaning square, but most locals prefer not to use them. Indeed, many hotels, shops and restaurants have no idea of the street name, let alone the number they're at. The reasoning is that you can simply ask around when you get lost, though this does make getting around town a little challenging for foreigners. Staying true to ancient Balkan habits, people just refer to places by mentioning nearby landmarks just like they did in the days they lived in the village. So, if you're looking for Rruga Luan Haradinaj, ask for 'police avenue', and if you get directions to a place 'opposite the police station' you'll need to be on Rruga Rexhep Luci. Until 1999, most streets in Pristina had communist-inspired or Yugoslav names written in Serbo-Croat. In 2001 the municipality decided on new names for some 500 streets and squares, mostly of famous Kosovars and Albanians, some of people we all know. Out went Moskovska, Beogradska, Proleterska and Partizanska. Kralja Petra I Oslobodioca became Boulevard Bill Clinton, Marsal Tito became Nene Tereza (Mother Teresa, an ethnic Albanian), Beogradska became Fehmi Agani, and 'Kosovo Film street' became Rruga Tony Blair. Other foreigners with their own streets here include Gustav Mayer, Henri Dunant, Holger Pedersen, Ingrid Cara, Jukup Ferri, Goethe, Johan Hahn, 'Lord Bajron', Miss Edit Durham, William Shakespeare and 'Viktor Hygo'. Even the great Croatian-born inventor Nikola Tesla got a street during the reforms. Despite all this, most locals don't have a clue about the new or even the former names, and sticking to nearby landmarks like hotels or restaurants is your best bet of finding anything.

Climate

Predominantly continental, meaning warm summers and cold winters.



Toilets

There are no public toilets in Pristina – your best bet is to walk into any hotel, café or restaurant and ask if nature calls. Be aware that restaurant toilets are often unheated in winter – be quick.

UNMIK & KFOR

Although Kosovo has its own layer of politicians and ministries, the UN in the form of the *United Nations Mission In Kosovo*, or UNMIK, has been firmly in charge of everything since 1999. It employs vast numbers of foreigners in Pristina, and we get the impression that many of them don't really want to be. Security Council Resolution 1244 states that Kosovo remains part of Serbia but is governed by the provisional UN mission, which has four pillars (sections) dealing with everyday life; police and justice, civil administration, democratisation and institution-building, and reconstruction and economic development. The UN also has its own police force, supported by the NATO-led KFOR (Kosovo Force) troops. Interestingly, the UNMIK uses K-Albanians and K-Serbians to refer to the locals. UNMIK does not have an easy task, made more difficult by not having a set deadline unlike most UN missions. Although it has managed to improve daily life in many ways, it has faced criticism for being unable to fix the electricity problem after seven years, and has also raised eyebrows for allegedly being the cause of an increase in human trafficking due to the sexual appetite of foreign peacekeepers – though steps have been taken to counter this. The apparent lack of democracy gets Kosovo its nickname 'Unmikistan'.

Visas & Borders

Citizens of the EU, the USA and Canada can stay in Kosovo for 90 days without further paperwork. After this period, extensions can be requested from the Pristina's main police office on Rr. Luan Haradinaj. Not actually being a country, arrival formalities at the borders and airport are dealt with by UNMIK staff wearing large hats that appear to have been borrowed from the NYPD circa 1955. As Kosovo is officially part of Serbia, the Serbians don't acknowledge the UNMIK entry stamps you have, nor the Serbia-Kosovo border, and accordingly refuse to stamp your passport if you enter Serbia from Kosovo. Although you usually can get into Serbia on an UNMIK entry stamp, this can lead to problems when you try to leave Serbia any other way than back via Kosovo. The best advice we can give is don't try it. The other way round though, it's not a problem to enter

Kosovo from Serbia and then leave via another country. To avoid problems with later travel to Serbia, Albanian and Macedonian nationals don't get UNMIK entry or exit stamps in their passport, while all others do.

Wheelchair users

The amount of money being poured into Kosovo by the UN and others is truly astonishing, a fact that appears ridiculous when you look around you. Where is it all going? It's certainly not being used to benefit the disabled. What pavements there are in Pristina pose a big enough threat to the able-bodied. If you're in a wheelchair, forget it. Officially, all state buildings have 'made arrangements' for wheelchair users. What this actually means is anyone's guess.

Basic data

Official name: Kosovo

Population
 Kosovo 2,473,000 (OSCE 2005 estimate)
 Pristina 220,000 (IKS/ESI estimate, 2006)

Ethnic composition
 Albanian 88%, Serbian 7%, Others 5%

Religion: Muslim 90%, Others 10%

Territory: 854km²

Geography
 Kosovo is located in southeastern Europe in the central Balkan Peninsula. Entirely surrounded by high mountains its terrain is varied, ranging from high plains some 500 metres above sea level to hills and mountains, of which the latter reach a height of 2,000 metres. The city of Pristina covers 572 km² and can be found between 535 and 580 metres above sea level.

Rivers
 The longest river in Kosovo is the Drini i Bardhë (122km) that flows through Albania and out into the Adriatic. Other notable rivers include the Sitnica (90km), Lumbardhi i Pejës/Bistrica e Pejës (62km), Ereniku (51km), and the Lumbardhi i Prizrenit/Bistrica e Prizrenit (31km).

Elevation
 The highest mountain in Kosovo is Gjeravica (2,656m), which is located in the Peja region in the west of the country. Other notable mountains include Bistra (2,640m) in the Ferizaj region, Marjash (2,530m) in the Peja region, and Luboten (2,496m) in the Ferizaj region.

Borders
 UNMIK controls the border of the landlocked province with Serbia (border length 351.6km) to the north and northeast. Kosovo is bordered by three countries, namely Montenegro (78.6km) to the northwest, Macedonia (158.7km) to the south and Albania (111.8km) to the west and southwest.

Local time
 Kosovo is in Central European Time (CET), GMT+1 hour. When it's 12:00 in Pristina it's 06:00 in New York, 11:00 in London and 19:00 in Tokyo. Central European Summer Time (GMT+2 hours) runs from the last Sunday in March until the last Sunday in October.

The quarrel over just whom Kosovo belongs to goes back to the earliest accounts of life in the region and is split into two distinct camps. The Albanians believe that they are the direct descendants of the Illyrians, who were (arguably) the first tribe to settle in the region. The Serbs on the other hand see it rather differently, claiming that the Albanians first arrived in Kosovo in the Middle Ages (ie. after the Serbs), and are the descendants of a series of intermarriages between nomadic shepherds and the unromanised remnants of the Illyrians and the Dardanians from Thrace. In short, the current situation in Kosovo that led to the ethnic conflict in 1999 and now sees the region technically still a part of Serbia but inevitably on the verge of becoming an independent, Albanian-ruled country, boils down to who got there first. What is known for sure is that the region was conquered by Alexander the Great 300 years before the birth of Christ and became part of the Roman province of Dardania in the 4th century.

6th Century

Slavs cross the Danube and move into the Balkans. These migrations weaken the Byzantium Empire sufficiently that Illyrian-speaking people, known to their neighbours as Albanians, move eastwards from the Adriatic into the Kosovo region of the Balkans. Their language becomes known as Albanian and their culture allies with Byzantium after the break up of the Catholic Church into Eastern and Western branches in **1054**.

12th Century

Almost all arable land in the region now known as Northern Albania and Kosovo is in Slavic hands. By **1190** Kosovo becomes the administrative and cultural centre of the Medieval Serbian state ruled by the powerful Nemanjić dynasty. The dynasty lasts 200 years and still today Kosovo is known by the Serbs as Old Serbia.

14th Century

The battle of Kosovo Polje in **1389**, in which the Serbs concede an honourable defeat to the Ottomans, secures the region a place in Serbian minds

15th Century

Serbia, including Kosovo, is conquered by the Ottoman Turks in **1459**. During this time the great majority of Albanians are still Christians. Serbs and Albanians live together in reasonable harmony. Gradually Albanians, and to a lesser extent Serbs, convert to Islam.

19th Century

The League of Prizren is created on **June 10, 1878** in a Mosque in Prizren, attended by some 300 Albanian nationalist leaders from what is now Kosovo, Macedonia, and Muslim leaders from Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Sanjak. The aim of the League is to achieve an autonomous Albanian state made up of the former Ottoman vilayets of Shkodra, Illyria, Cameria, Janina, Bitola and Kosovo. The 60-member board of the League, led by Abdyl Bej Frashëri, sends a letter to the Great Powers at the Congress of Berlin, asking for the settling of the Albanian issues resulting from the Turkish War. The memorandum is ignored and the territories are given to Serbia and Montenegro.

20th Century

In the first Balkan War of **1912** Serbs join the army in large numbers to avenge the Serbian defeat at the Battle of Kosovo Polje. They plunder and occupy Pristina and the Albanian majority are forced into the surrounding mountains. Serb peasants follow the army into Kosovo and re-occupy the region. After fierce battles the Serbs take control of the

region and Kosovo comes under Serbian authority. At the Conference of Ambassadors in London in **1912** presided over by Sir Edward Grey, the British Foreign Secretary, Serbia is given sovereignty over Kosovo, which it retains to this day. For the first time in history Albania is internationally recognised. The Treaty of London in **1913** declares Albania a fully independent and sovereign state. The population of Kosovo remains mostly Albanian, and anti-Serb sentiment continues to bubble just under the surface.

1914

On **June 28** the teenage Serbian nationalist Gavrilo Princip assassinates the Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo, changing the course of European and world history forever. Austro-Hungarian and Bulgarian troops move into Kosovo, defeating the Serbs decisively. Many Kosovar Albanians join the Austro-Hungarian army. Albanian language schools are opened to undermine the Serbian presence.

1918

The Serb army take revenge, massacring women and children and destroying homes. The peace treaties of **1919-1920** establish a Yugoslav state with the name The Kingdom of Slovenes, Croats and Serbs. Kosovo is again an integral part of Serbia.

Between the wars

Between **1918** and **1941** the Serbs attempt a mass colonisation of Kosovo. Land is illegally taken away from the Albanians and they are encouraged to leave. Many Albanians resist, and the attempt fails.

1943

Yugoslavia consists of the republics of Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro and Macedonia. Tito consolidates his supremacy and the rule of the Communist Party over all of Yugoslavia. For political reasons Tito favours a Serbian-ruled Kosovo as he needs Serbian support to win them over to Communism. The Second League of Prizren is founded by leading Albanian officials in Kosovo to campaign for the ethnic unification of Albanians in Albania and Kosovo. Their aim is to ensure the formation of a greater Albania made up of Albania, Kosovo and areas such as Debar (now in western Macedonia) that contain significant Albanian populations. Bedri Pejani is appointed President of the League.

1946

The Yugoslav constitution fails to grant territorial autonomy to Kosovo or recognise Albanian as a distinct nationality.

1961 - 1971

The combined impact of Albanian immigration, Serb emigration and a higher than average Albanian birth-rate, the Albanian population in Kosovo increases from 67% to 74%.



1967

Tito visits Kosovo for the first time.

1974

The new Yugoslav Constitution makes Kosovo an autonomous province and it becomes one of seven federal units of the Yugoslavian Federation. Although not a republic, its authority within the Federation is equal to that of Serbia.

1980

Tito dies on **May 4**.

1987

In **February** the Serbian government proposes to take away Kosovo's autonomy, despite having no right to do so. Slobodan Milosevic visits Kosovo for the first time in **April** and replaces Ivan Stambolic as president later in the year. Milosevic gives a now famous speech in Kosovo Polje promising to return the two autonomous provinces of Vojvodina and Kosovo to Serbian authority.

1989

The process to abolish autonomy begins in **March**.

1990

Civil disturbances erupt throughout Kosovo by tens of thousands of Albanian protesters. The complete removal of autonomy is completed in **September** when a change in the Serbian constitution redefines Kosovo as a region within Serbia. Administrative and executive control is now in the hands of the Serbian National Assembly.

1991

The League for a Democratic Kosovo (LDK) is formed, with 700,000 members. The LDK has offices in Zurich, Stuttgart and Brussels among other cities. The LDK is led by Dr. Ibrahim Rugova, whose ideology for independence was sought through a non-violent solution to the crisis.

1993 - 1997

Ethnic tension and armed unrest escalate due to rising nationalism with the break-up of Yugoslavia and Serbia's dissolution of the Kosovo Assembly. In defiance of the Serbian authorities, ethnic Albanians elect Ibrahim Rugova as president of a self-proclaimed republic and set up a provincial assembly.

1998

Fighting between the KLA (Kosovo Liberation Army) and civilians on one side and the Serbian military, paramilitary and police forces becomes a mainstay of media reporting throughout the world. In **March** US Secretary of State Madeline Albright blames the Kosovo crisis squarely on the shoulders of Slobodan Milosevic.

1999

On **January 28**, Nato warns that it's ready to use military force immediately. In **February** a conference is held at Rambouillet, France, to negotiate an end to the conflict. The settlement, dictated by the West, demands that Yugoslavia withdraws its forces from Kosovo, that the KLA lays down its arms, that NATO peacekeepers are placed on the ground to enforce the agreement and a three-year period to settle the political future of Kosovo is put in place. The Albanian representatives agree to sign the what's known as the Rambouillet Agreement. Milosevic refuses to sign and US President Bill Clinton dispatches special envoy Richard Holbrooke to Belgrade for one last meeting with Milosevic on **March 22**. Holbrooke is unable to convince Milosevic to sign the agreement, and two days later on **March 24** the bombing starts. After 73 days

of continuous bombing Serbian infrastructure is seriously damaged. In **June 1999** Yugoslavia and NATO sign a peace deal agreeing on the withdrawal from Kosovo of all Serbian military, police and paramilitary forces, the return of all refugees, and an international armed security presence in Kosovo with 'substantial' NATO participation. The agreement also calls for respect of the territorial integrity of Yugoslavia.

1999 - 2006

The UN Security Council Resolution adopted on **June 10, 1999** places Kosovo under UN administration. On **January 21, 2006** President Ibrahim Rugova dies of cancer. In **February**, Fatmir Sejdiu, a law professor and assembly deputy, is elected to succeed Rugova as president. Rugova's death comes at the worst possible time, at a crucial point in the negotiations to reach a final solution to Kosovo crisis. Marti Ahtisaari, the former Finnish President and status negotiator in Kosovo is expected to make an official statement about full independence in **September 2006** when he meets UN Secretary General Kofi Annan. There is however a distinct possibility that the decision will be postponed until **2007**.

2006

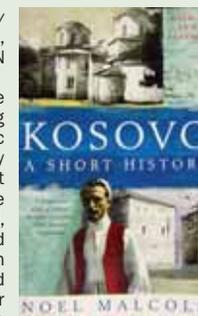
October 15. Actress and Unifem (UN development fund for women) goodwill ambassador Nicole Kidman tours Kosovo, visiting Pristina and Gjakova.

October 29 In a referendum, Serbian voters approve vote in favour of a new constitution which asserts that Kosovo is an integral part of the country. Kosovo Albanians were not able to vote.

A Short History

Kosovo: A Short History by Noel Malcolm. Pan, 1998, 492 pages, ISBN 0330412248.

Published just before the NATO bombs started falling in 1999, Noel Malcolm's epic history of Kosovo is generally acknowledged to be the most balanced critique of one of the world's most misunderstood, historically enigmatic and politically sensitive regions. An Oxford history graduate and former political columnist for the Daily Telegraph, Malcolm's colossal history attempts to understand the current situation in Kosovo by analysing almost every manuscript relating to the demographics of the region written over the last fifteen hundred years. By looking at censuses, diaries, ancient travelogues and other documents the book discovers more booby traps than answers, introduces the reader to the strange and complicated world of the crypto-Catholic and generally serves as an excellent tool for unlocking the strange and beautiful culture of the southern Balkans. Despite his best efforts at neutrality, the author comes out of the book slightly in favour of the Albanians, but he does remain apolitical enough to give the reader an entertaining as well as a thought-provoking read. If you've got enough room in your hand luggage or are a kilo or so under with your baggage allowance, the book is well worth bringing along with you as it's unlikely you'll finish it unless you start reading it a year or so before you leave. Heavy stuff indeed.



Cinemas

Currently there are just two small cinemas in town; however there are plans to build a new five-screen multiplex imaginatively called 'Multiplex'. The OSCE has its own small cinema hall with regular screenings, but for international staff only.

Kino ABC & ABC-1 B-2, Rr. Rexhep Luci 1, tel. 24 31 17, www.kinoabc.info. Kino ABC and ABC1 (opposite the OSCE office at A-2, Rr. Migjeni, tel. 22 20 86) show Hollywood releases, documentaries and occasionally have film festivals. ABC-1 has cheerful rainbow-coloured seating and a stretched limo parked in the attached café. Find the English-language programme on the website. ▶ Tickets €1-3.

Theatre & Music

Dodona Puppet Theatre Rr. Xhavit Mitrovica, tel. 23 06 23, dodona86@yahoo.com. Putting on puppet, children's and youth shows since 1986, the Dodona Theatre is very popular with the local kids. During the repressive years of the 1990s, this was the only Albanian cultural institution that was not completely restricted. In and after 1999, the theatre did performances for child refugees across the region, and has also toured Kosovo villages with a puppet show warning children of the danger of landmines - which perhaps explains why the puppets all have wooden legs.

Kosova Ballet (Trupa e Baletit e Kosoves), tel. 038 22 43 97. Performs in the National Theatre.

Kosova Philharmony & Opera (Opera e Kosoves) B-3, Rr. Sylejman Vokshi, tel. 038 24 49 39. The Philharmony and Opera orchestra has about 100 members and performs irregularly.



National Theatre B-2, Rr. Nënë Tereza 21, tel. 22 43 97. Founded in 1946 in Prizren, the birthplace of all cultural things Albanian, the National Theatre puts on Albanian-language plays and shows. With help from the authorities and sponsors, the theatre has revived after a difficult period of censorship, forced management and staff changes and a dictated repertoire between 1981 and 1999. In that period some directors and actors went underground to performed illegal plays, some performed at the Dodona theatre. Performances start at 20:00.

Pristina's accommodation market is small but growing; it offers a limited selection of hotels, with none of the big international players present yet. Despite what the hotels may claim, there's not a single place that clearly rises above three-star standard. Pristina has a reputation for having average, expensive hotels, and does suffer somewhat from an all-expenses-paid-all-choices-made foreigner market. But its reputation is undeserved, as the best hotels (Afa and Begolli) are just as central and much cheaper than the standard choices that for some reason still attract foreigners who don't know any better. You, dear reader, do.

Upmarket

Upmarket for their prices, these hotels with doubles priced over €100 per night are not necessarily the best or best value in town.

Baci Rr. Ulpiana I/1, tel. 54 83 56, fax 54 83 58, hotelbaci@hotmail.com, www.bacicompany.com. The moment we stepped through the front door, a power cut struck - but don't let this throw you, Baci is a decent hotel (with its own generator), if somewhat far away on the southern city limits. Behind the mirror glass facade, the wooden lobby is a grand affair with a fountain and attentive staff. Rooms are modern, standard but efficient and fitted out with showers - the only problem is the street noise; take a room facing the back for peace. Free laundry service included. Guests here can be proud to stay in the only hotel in Kosovo with keycards. ▶ 22 rooms (singles €76, doubles €100, apartments €130 - 180).

Victory Bul. i Dëshmorëve, tel. 54 32 77, fax 54 32 86, info@hotel-victory.com, www.hotel-victory.com. Used by quite a few foreign visitors, the Victory is touted as one of the best hotels in town - but we don't think so. Located between two busy roads, it is on the southern edge of town, the staff is of two-star standard and the rooms are small and overpriced. The carpets don't fit, and the bathrooms are awful - featuring gaudy neo-Rococo toilets that we haven't seen anywhere else in ten years of hotel reviewing. For those who disagree and do venture here, rooms have good central heating and there's a thermo-massage centre in the hotel. It's easy to spot as you drive into town on the Skopje road - look for the building with a Statue of Liberty on the roof. ▶ 42 rooms (singles €100, doubles €140, suites €180).

Mid-range

The mid-range hotels, with double rooms priced from €50 per night, are your best bet for a good-value kip.

Afa B-4, Rr. Ali Kelmendi, tel. 22 77 22, fax 24 46 82, office@hotelafa.com, www.hotelafa.com. One of the very best hotels in Kosovo - if you ignore the idiosyncratic plumbing and the limited selection of food at breakfast time. Featuring some of the friendliest receptionists you're ever likely to find and some rather large and well-furnished rooms, Afa shines brightly above many hotels in Pristina that charge more. Other bonuses include free LAN internet connections in the rooms, a fast and very good laundry service, chambermaids who ask you if you're happy with their work, shoeshine in the lobby and a super secluded garden out the back when you need to get away from the dirt and grime of the city streets. ▶ 29 rooms (singles €45 - 75, doubles €65 - 85).

www.inyourpocket.com

Symbol key

Air conditioning	Credit cards accepted
Conference facilities	Facilities for the disabled
Dataport	Guarded parking
Fitness centre	Non-smoking rooms
Restaurant	Swimming pool
★ Stars	Wi-Fi

Dion A-3, Rr. Kosta Novakovic 14, tel. 24 52 70/044 14 79 56, hoteldion@hotmail.com, www.hoteldion.com.

Attached to the Pejtton Hotel and pretty much the same, the Dion is a small hotel near the centre with nice but small rooms with Hollywood ceilings. There's no satellite TV in the rooms, but a couple of drinks from the minibar are on the house. ▶ 9 rooms (singles €69, doubles €92).

Grand A-3, Bul. Nënë Tereza, tel. 22 02 10, fax 24 81 38, info@grandhotel-pr.com, www.grandhotel-pr.com.

An unfortunate misnomer, this is the hotel that foreigners love to hate. With a dozen floors, the 1977 building that dominates central Pristina is a point of reference for locals and foreigners alike, and its smokey Yugoslav time-warp zone lobby bar a common meeting place - though the outdoor terrace is quite nice in summer. The shabby rooms are just about acceptable for sleeping in, though not at these prices - and you even have to pay extra for wifi access. The Grand is apparently slated for privatisation - the sooner the better, we say. ▶ 369 rooms (184 singles €60, 175 doubles €90, triples €105, 2 suites €180 - 250, 8 apartments €120 - 140).

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Iliria B-2, Bul. Nëna Tereza, tel. 24 52 53. Pity the Nepali police who have to stay in this overpriced throwback to the Yugoslav era. Worn, weary rooms face dimly lit corridors. Once one of Pristina's top hotels, now the stale smell of Communism hangs in the air. The cheapest rooms use communal bathrooms. ▶ 126 rooms (singles €30 - 50, doubles €75). ★★★

Luxor Rr. N. Gafurri, tel. 51 78 88, reservation@hotel-luxor.net, www.hotelluxor.net. Seemingly built with more windows than exterior surface, the Luxor is two kilometres east of the centre and very near Germia park. It's well located for those who like peace and jogging. The rooms are large, come with proper showers and balconies with green views. The restaurant is surprisingly good, with a palm-lined terrace. ▶ (singles €50, doubles €65). [P] [W]

Pejton A-3, Rr. Kosta Novakovic 14a, tel. 22 22 04/044 30 80 80, hotel_pejton@hotmail.com. Next door and similar to the Dion, this small modern hotel has a handful of nicely-furnished rooms just a short walk from the city centre. Two of the rooms feature Jacuzzis, and four drinks are on the house. No satellite T.V. ▶ 9 rooms (singles €69, doubles €92). [P] [W]

Prishtina A-3, Rr. Kosta Novakovic 20, tel. 22 32 84/22 53 39, reservations@hotelpristina.com, www.hotelpristina.com. A very good city centre hotel. Though it's no Hilton, the Prishtina has modern, large rooms with soft beds, large TVs and a free minibar. In the hallway, several PCs offer free internet access for guests, while downstairs there's a good restaurant. Walking distance to anywhere you'd need to be in central Prishtina. ▶ (singles €69, doubles €92, apartments €115 - 130). [W] [P] [S] [B] [T] [F] [P] [W]

Budget

Penny-pinching businessmen and travellers will find good value accommodation in these hotels, with double rooms priced from €30.

Begolli B-1, Rr. M. Gjinolli, tel. 044 30 80 93, hotel_begoli@hotmail.com. Tucked away in the heart of the bustling bazaar, the Begolli is quite simply a fabulous jewel of a find. With lots of brass and marble in the lobby and a gaggle of charming receptionists, the rooms are literally full of Eastern promise, with lots of crazy colour schemes, soft, bright drapes hanging all over the place and state-of-the-art DVD players. Some rooms come with a balcony overlooking the bazaar, whereas others feature huge baths or, if you're lucky, massive Jacuzzis inside the actual bedrooms. If it wasn't for the fact that internet connections are only available in reception this would be without doubt the best hotel in the city. ▶ (singles €30 - 40, doubles €35 - 50, triples €50 - 60). [P] [W]

Lyon C-3, Rr. Robert Gajdiku 91, tel. 22 09 97/044 24 50 82, hotel_lyon@hotmail.com. Up on the hill east of the centre, and overlooking a field with UCK war graves, the Lyon is a decent budget option for those willing to take taxis or slog up the hill. Rooms are compact, modern and clean but hard to keep warm in winter. There's a decent pizza restaurant downstairs. The quiet rooms are at the back. The small bouncy rubber lion on the reception desk suggests the management is victim of an unfortunate misspelling. ▶ (singles €40 - 50, doubles €50 - 60). [P]

Park B-2, Rr. Hamzi Jashari, tel. 24 38 57/044 19 99 19, parkhotel.pr@hotmail.com. Overlooking the bottom of the pleasant city park, this is a quiet option in the centre of

town. The building seems a bit haphazardly cobbled together, but the rooms are very large and filled with bulky furniture. We doubt the small heaters will manage to cope in winter - so bring warm socks. Laundry is included. ▶ 12 rooms (8 singles €40, 4 doubles €50). [P] [W]

Dirt cheap

Who said that sleeping in Prishtina is expensive? It's possible to get a decent double room for under €30 a night. Here you can get an Oriental-style double room with DVD player for the same price as a sagging dorm bed in a smelly Western European hostel.

Sara B-1, Rr. M. Gjinolli, tel. 23 62 03. Very good value accommodation in the heart of the bazaar, Sara comes with a galaxy of plain choices from rudimentary rooms for one to three people to partially renovated albeit very simple apartments. Clean and basic, this ever-so slightly tatty hotel features lurid red and green corridors, limited satellite television channels, a few rooms with tiny Jacuzzis, a garage for two cars and staff who speak three words of English. But at these prices, who's complaining? And of course if you only book one night then you can always go somewhere else. ▶ (singles €20, doubles €30, triples €40). [W] [P]

Velania Guesthouse Velania 4/34, tel. 53 17 42/044 16 74 55. Also known as Guesthouse Profesor, Prishtina's most affordable accommodation is run by an affable former electronics and engineering professor who studied in the UK. The rooms in the three-storey house have a hotch-potch of furniture but are mostly spacious and adequate, each with satellite T.V, electric heaters a private bathroom. Breakfast is not included, but rooms share well-equipped kitchens, there's a free laundry service and there are a few communal balconies. The professor was delighted to see us, as despite being mentioned in a few guides, we were apparently the first travel writers to visit. He has plans to make a dorm room with beds at about €5. Find Velania up the hill from Rruga Xhelal Mitrovica (C-2), east of the centre behind the Lyon hotel. If the guesthouse is full, the professor's brother has an additional 20 similar rooms in a house nearby. ▶ (singles €13, doubles €18).

Airport hotels

These airport hotels aren't exactly within walking distance of the runway, but you never know when you might need them.

Aviano Sllatina, tel. 044 15 99 03. For the desperate ones who arrive too late or depart too early from Prishtina airport to make it to town, this motel along the main road of the village near the airport has small, functional rooms and a huge restaurant. The hotel sign features a large F-16 fighter plane - hopefully you won't see too many of those. ▶ (singles €30, doubles €40, triples €45). [W] [P] [S] [B] [T] [F] [P] [W]

Fitimi Sllatina, tel. 044 29 80 98. Four very basic, fairly clean and rather small rooms with local television, big comfy beds and unrenovated bathrooms. Exceedingly local, expect not one word of English to be spoken here or for that matter the sort of pleasant Albanian hospitality you find almost everywhere in Kosovo. Find it close to the junction where the airport and Prishtina roads meet.

Xhema B-1, Rr. Tregu, tel. 044 17 76 65. Featuring lush Oriental rooms with heaps of chintzy wall hangings and a distinctly feminine feel, Xhema is yet another bazaar hotel hidden just back off the main road in a delightfully peaceful part of the city centre. For your money you get a very nice deal indeed here, especially if you're looking to get away from the standard hotel format as practiced worldwide these days. Facilities include cable television, the ubiquitous bazaar hotel Jacuzzis and a classy DVD player in the studio room. There's no hotel restaurant, but the surrounding area features plenty of options for eating out. ▶ (singles €25, doubles €30, triples €40, apartments €60). [W] [P]

Hostels

Hostel Eleven, www.hosteleleven.com. Prishtina's first hostel is said to open in early 2007; watch this space for a review as soon as it does.



First impressions when scouring Pristina for something to nibble can make you wish you'd bought sandwiches. However, like so many other things in the city, don't let appearances fool you. A largish Balkan city populated by Albanians and rich Westerners ensures that eating out in Pristina is deliciously varied, and almost always excellent. Note that only a few places in Pristina serve pork (Pishat is one of them). Eating out is cheap too in Pristina, with main courses usually costing €2-10. Those who already know the Balkans will know that it's a great place in which to dine. Those who don't will soon be endlessly dazzled by superb salads, lashings of lamb, fabulous white cheese, the very best of Turkish food, passable pizza and much more besides. Ignore the battalions of beleaguered expats who tell you what a dreadful experience Pristina is and tuck in. Who cares if the waiter's got a cigarette in his mouth? He really is genuinely pleased to serve you.

Chinese

Chinese Restaurant A-2, Rr. Luan Haradinaj, tel. 044 38 49 28. Popular with foreigners looking to spice up their meals (witness the expat trophy badges and flags on display), this aptly named restaurant is nicely done up with lanterns and painted masks. The short menu offers Chinese classics, including dumplings, seafood and pork options, at around €5; try the sizzler plates or ask the cook (who is from Harbin) for a recommendation. If you just can't get enough, the restaurant also offers foot, head, ear and other massages, starting at €25/hr. ▶ Open 11:00 - 23:00, Sun 12:00 - 23:00.

Fast food

For the local take on fast food, see the *Burek* listings.

Maximum Burger A-2, Rr. Rexhep Luci 20/1. Who needs Ronny McD's if you have a Maximum Burger in town? Just €1.80 for a decent hamburger with cola and fries in plastic surroundings. ▶ Open 08:00 - 23:00. Closed Sun.

Route 66 A-3, Rr. Luan Haradinaj, tel. 22 72 25. A fun, bright and brash American diner right opposite the UN compound. The menu includes classics such as chicken burgers, buffalo wings, fajitas and nachos, and takes the Micky out of UNMIK with its *Bondsteel sandwich* (named after the largest US military camp), and the *Bill Clinton enchilada* (with extra chilli sauce). The filling platter for two is €5.50. ▶ Open 07:00 - 02:00, Sun 08:00 - 02:00.



Pristina In Your Pocket

Symbol key

 Air conditioning	 Outside seating
 Credit cards accepted	 Guarded parking
 Occasional live music	 Take away
 No smoking	

Indian

Bombay A-2, Rr. Hajdar Dushi, tel. 063 872 33 64/044 11 84 46. Some desperate expats are known to drive down to the Bombay restaurant in Skopje just for a curry. Others can relax and head to the courtyard behind the Istanbul restaurant to find Pristina's own Bombay, which has decent north Indian dishes cooked by real Indians. Bombay is pretty genuine, resembling a roadside dhaba more than the swank Indian restaurants we're used to. ▶ Open 10:00 - 23:00. (€3-6).

International

Amaro B-2, Bul. Nëna Teresa 29, tel. 044 27 83 13. A small restaurant decorated with wood panelling and pictures of old Pristina. The menu here is standard international, with the Parisian veal as its standout. ▶ Open 07:00 - 24:00.

Buffet express

If you've just read the entire restaurant chapter of this guidebook and you still haven't been served, stay calm, collect your belongings and pop into one of these places, where the food is served fresh and chilled or piping hot, and straight from metal containers.

Aroma A/B-2, Rr. Rexhep Luci 10/1, tel. 24 41 25. Featuring a fascinating array of youngsters who gradually get older as the day progresses, this is an intriguing female-friendly café-restaurant with good music, better than average coffee, some of the best sandwiches in Kosovo. Wander over to the buffet to point out the fresh filling for your sandwich (€1.20-2.20) or go for a pasta or salad. ▶ Open 07:00 - 23:00, Sun 10:00 - 23:00. Outlets at Rr. Ilaz Kodra (tel. 044 11 24 29, open 08:00-24:00) and Rr. Trepca 17 (tel 23 75 94, open 08:00-16:00, Sat 08:00-13:00, closed Sun). ☑

Centrum A-3, Bul. Nëna Tereza, tel. 24 41 49. A beautifully simple brass canteen with cheap furniture and a huge chandelier, dishes prepared in an instant here include classic Turkish meatballs, spicy white beans and plenty of rice. There's very good hot white bread too and a great choice of healthy salads as well as some not very nice burgers plus lots and lots of soft drinks. A fairly typical Turkish fast food joint then, but highly recommended all the same if you're in a bit of a hurry. ▶ Open 08:00 - 22:00.

Metro Café A-3, Rr. Garibaldi 3/1, tel. 044 11 30 00. The excellent Metro Café provides a great buffet - a display case full of fresh salads and sandwich ingredients (€1.80-3) for you to pick. Adorned with large windows both at the front and back, it's a prime people-watching spot too. ▶ Open 07:00 - 20:00. ☑☑



Ballantine's A-2, Rexhep Luci 21, tel. 044 15 79 27. Much talked about by Pristina's large, overpaid and utterly unadventurous expat community for its salmon, Ballantine's is nothing much at all in the way of either décor or what they get up to in the kitchen. A daily specials board that can include anything from steak to octopus attempts to add a little colour to the usual round of shopska salad, kebabs and pizza, but is this place really all it's made out to be? You decide. ▶ Open 08:00 - 23:00, Sun 15:00 - 21:00. ☑☑

Buzz (Buena Vista Gourmet Club) A-4, Bul. Bill Clinton, tel. 044 14 11 47. Newly opened on the night that we visited, Buzz is hidden in the cluster of nightlife venues near the KEK building. The eager young owners serve simple home-cooked meals in a simple black-white-and-grey setting decorated with eyes, with just a few tables. The menu includes three pasta dishes at €2 (tuna, cream, spinach) and until 11:00 even an English breakfast (€1.70 including coffee) with sausages, eggs, mushroom and cheddar - but without baked beans. ▶ Open 08:00 - 23:00.

Calabria A-2, Rr. Luan Haradinaj, tel. 044 20 85 17. An expat favourite, hidden in the courtyard behind the Istanbul restaurant, Calabria may not be much to look at but it's certainly good to eat at. There's English breakfast (€4.50, with pork), bacon sandwiches, fresh orange juice, a good buffet selection for a quick lunch, and even fish and chips (€4). Unusually for Pristina, the waiters have a sense of humour. ▶ Open 07:00 - 16:00. ☑

Club 212 A-3, Rr. Qyteza Pejton, tel. 24 67 56. A large club-like restaurant with lots of individual booth seating, comfy sofas and the usual array of inactive gentlemen in leather jackets, the small menu of Italian and international dishes includes favourites such as Caesar salad and gnocchi as well as a beguiling range of peculiar sounding food such as *parpadeli* with *shpek*. ▶ Open 11:00 - 01:00, Sun 17:00 - 24:00.

Edi-1 A-2, Rr. Luan Haradinaj 6, tel. 044 12 47 15. This functional-looking restaurant stands out with its dishes from Zhuri, the owner's village, such as pastry with veal and mushrooms. ▶ Open 07:00 - 24:00.

Escargot A-3, Rr. Garibaldi, tel. 22 60 54. Not a snail in sight at Escargot. The restaurant has a pleasant, light brown dining area with paper screens, street views, and serves grilled sandwiches, steak, Cajun chicken, New York steak, burgers and much more. ▶ Open 08:00 - 23:00. Closed Sun.

Hani i 2 Robertëve A-3, Rear of Pallati i Rinisë, tel. 044 11 26 09. The two Roberts' have found an unusual setting for their excellent restaurant (behind the Pallati i Rinisë, beyond the car park), and it's a popular venue for dinners and receptions. The *han* (inn) has pizza, grilled meat, pasta, and a surprisingly wide range of seafood on the menu, as well as a good selection of wines. Book ahead. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00. (€3-12). ☑

Fun

Anija Pirates A-3, Rr. Pashko Vasa, tel. 044 11 54 40. Shaped like a large ship and with an equally large ship-shaped bar, Anija Pirates stands head and shoulders above the rest as Pristina's number one anomaly. With trimmings including rigging, concrete treasure maps and other nautical offerings, the menu as you'd expect includes lots of water-based dishes such as scampi and seafood pizza. Great fun indeed, but recommended more as a place to giggle over a beer than to come and eat in. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00.



Burek

Burek, a flaky pastry containing cheese, spinach or meat, is the universal and ubiquitous Balkan snack that simply has to be tried when you're in the region. Known to the Albanians as *byrek Shqipëtar me perime* (Albanian vegetable pies), variations on the burek theme can be found as far and wide as Israel, where they have the *burekas*, and even in Lithuania where they eat something not unlike a burek that they call a *čeburekas*. In fact, burek is so popular in the Balkans that the biggest internet forum in the former republic of Serbia and Montenegro is called the Burek Forum. From the Turkish *bur*, meaning to twist, burek comes in all manner of shapes and sizes but are essentially a baked filo pastry snack filled with savoury fillings, usually flavoured minced beef, goats' cheese and/or spinach. Found in bakeries all over Pristina, the most popular outlet is the Bosna chain, who have a number of small shops scattered around the city. Below are two of our favourites. Just ask for *byrek me mish* (byrek with meat) or *me djath* (with cheese). It's best downed with *ayran*, a salty yoghurt drink; count on paying about €0.80 for a set. For several thousand burek recipes, simply type the word into Google and away you go.

Bosna 2 A-3, Bul. Nënë Tereza, tel. 044 37 54 36. One of this infamous chain's less salubrious outlets, the location is at least highly central, and the long, thin burek they sell here are out of this world. ▶ Open 07:00 - 22:00.

Bosna 4 A-3, Rr. Pashko Vasa, tel. 24 59 19. Great burek amidst extraordinarily quirky décor. Lots of shapes and colours in an instantly recognisable communist style. ▶ Open 07:00 - 22:00.

Home A-2, Rr. Migjeni, tel. 044 33 63 36. For many expats working in Pristina, this is as close to home as it gets - the chef cook worked in London and conjures up great breakfasts (from 08:00-11:00) and divine dinners. Try the Greek chicken, the eggplant tower with tomatoes, or a local specialties such as *llokuma* (wedding doughnuts) or *pershut* (dried meat). With two small, dark rooms and quality music playing, the atmosphere inside is relaxed and intimate. ▶ Open 07:00 - 23:00, Sun 11:00 - 23:00.

Parcae A-2, Rr. Fehmi Agani, tel. 044 22 27 96. An upmarket restaurant near the OSCE office, visibly owned by an architect; the space is filled with an unusual combination of gold, brown and red shapes and colours. The Italian-inspired menu lists Filet Parcae with *pershut* meat, and fresh trout. Note the funky paperclip lamp above the entrance. ▶ Open 08:00 - 23:00, Sun 10:00 - 23:00.

Pishat B-3, Rr. Qamil Hoxha 11, tel. 24 53 33. Arguably the best restaurant in Pristina, even if the food doesn't do it for you here you'll get a good feeling from the surroundings. Located half indoors and half on a terrace that gets covered during the winter, Pishat (the fir tree) is packed with local bigwigs who visit regularly to dine on food including calamari, veal, traditional Albanian dishes, delicious bread baked in a brick oven and the local delicacy that is *fli*. Pishat is also one of a few places in Pristina serving pork dishes. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00, Sat 12:00 - 24:00.

Rings 2 A-2, Rr. Luan Haradinaj, tel. 22 61 98. Pristina's best-looking restaurant-cum-café looks like a Scandinavian airport lounge that was accidentally dropped onto Kosovo. The seating area is inside curved wooden wings with portholes. You can check in for just a coffee or take off for a full meal, with pancakes, salads, pizza and good steaks. The name refers to the pictures of ring-related art on the walls, including Hobbits of course. ▶ Open 07:00 - 24:00. (€2-6).

Talia B-2, Bul. Nënë Tereza, tel. 24 47 15. Down the passageway next to the National Theatre, this artists' and politicians' haunt is a favourite with the establishment for its live music; local diva Alisa Baraku regularly performs here. On the menu are the usual international standards; perhaps try the veal with rice and vegetables. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00, Sun 11:00 - 24:00.

The Room A-2, Rr. Fehmi Agani, tel. 044 64 52 49/044 50 09 59. A brand new exclusive café/restaurant targeting the expat population with upmarket French and Italian dishes and fresh fish. It's actually two rooms, both done up with brown chairs, homey lamps and two fireplaces. Commandably, it's one of the very few non-smoking restaurants in town. ▶ ☹

Verona B-2, Rr. Agim Ramadani, tel. 044 41 23 95. A rambling restaurant spread on two floors, set next to the theatre. The eager German-speaking staff run up to your table with *pljeskavica* (delicious Balkan hamburgers), pizza, and Albanian dishes. ▶ ☹

Italian

Arte B-2, Rr. Rexhep Luci 1, tel. 24 97 09. Ravioli, penne, tagliatelle and more are served at this pleasant Italian bar/restaurant with its large windows and outdoor seating near the street corner. ▶ Open 07:00 - 24:00.

1€ = £ 0.67 = \$1.25
16-10-2006

Panevino's A/B-2, Rr. Fehmi Agani 10, tel. 044 17 78 99/044 20 90 80. A converted villa holds this upmarket Italian restaurant with a large terrace. Come here for the oven-roasted lamb, wild boar, wood oven pizza, pasta specialties or for the great Italian cheese platters - the menu changes every two months, so there's always a reason to return. ▶ Open 11:00-15:00, 19:00-23:00, Sun closed. ☹

Pinocchio Rr. 24 Maj nr. 115, tel. 044 20 29 52. An excellent Italian restaurant in the western hillside suburb of Arbëria. With impeccable service, it's one of the best in town and is frequently visited by international bigwigs. The multi-level seating in the spacious wooden restaurant offers great views over town, and an opportunity to enjoy salads, pizza, steak, chicken dishes and grilled fish. Downstairs, the large wine bar is a favourite venue for receptions. ▶ Open 11:00-23:30. ☹

Spaghetteria Tony A-4, Bul. Bill Clinton, tel. 23 67 96. Great fresh lasagna, tagliatelli and other pasta dishes made by the flamboyant Tony in his restaurant, decked out with portraits of famous Italian heroes. On Wednesdays and Sundays a band plays 1960s/70s music out on the terrace. The restaurant has a non-smoking area indoors, but for all other specifics about his place Tony told us to use Google. ▶ Open 07:00 - 24:00, Sun 10:00 - 24:00. ☹

Vullkano A-2, Rr. Rexhep Luci, tel. 22 53 28. Eager staff, pink walls, soft colours and comfy seats can all be found in this pleasant, central pizzeria. Choose between 31 thin-crust pizzas and several past and salad options. Vullkano's smoking €5 volcano-shaped, 'surprise pizza' is the most expensive item on the menu and certainly delighted the pyrophile child in us. ▶ Open 07:00 - 23:00. ☹



Kosovar

Tiffany's A-2, Rr. Fehmi Agani. Astonishing. A restaurant any city would give its right arm for, Tiffany's is a wonderfully laid-back canteen-like affair, brimming with well-heeled locals and foreigners who know a good thing when they see it. The food is prepared in the restaurant according to whatever the chef found at the shops that morning. With no menu, you're never quite sure what you'll get, the waiter will tell you what options you have. Whatever it is, it's bound to be superb. Particularly good during our visit was the *mantija*, a delicious flakey pie with beef filling covered with natural yoghurt. Highly recommended. Find the unmarked restaurant on the side road, across the car park, opposite the Kaqa bar. ▶ Open 09:00 - 23:00. Closed Sun.

XIX Rr. Luan Haradinaj 2, tel. 044 30 00 02, www.xixonline.com. XIX's interior intentions are hard to grasp with the tartan tablecloths and daily specials blackboard, but the food couldn't be much better. The menu includes 18 pizzas cooked in a real brick pizza oven that arrive on the table with a side dish of black olives, red chillies and homemade tomato sauce, plus there's good antipasto, pasta, beef and fish to boot. There's a decent wine list too, and the waiters belong to that rare perfect breed who remain just the right side of attentive without sitting on your lap. Brilliant stuff. ▶ Open 07:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 07:00 - 02:00. (€2-5).

Japanese

Holiday Pizza B-2, Rr. Fazli Grajcevi, tel. 044 37 35 37. Strange combinations are a Kosovo speciality, and this pizzeria baffles us all by doubling as a Japanese restaurant, employing a proper sushi chef and serving very decent sushi (from €3) and Kojiro specials. The lunch specials include miso soup, seaweed salad, and a choice of teriyaki or sushi/maki options. Wash it all down with the 'soft grinks' listed on the menu. ▶ Open 11:30-14:30, 17:30-22:30, Sat 17:30-22:30. Sun closed.

Samurai A-2, Rr. Fehmi Agani, tel. 044 39 31 11. An amazingly good Japanese restaurant and cocktail bar. The interior is simple with paper screens and glass tables. The menu features soups, stir fried noodles, and several mains with rice, but it's the excellent sushi (flown in fresh) that you should visit Samurai for. The 'chef's sushi set' is good value at €10 for 11 pieces. After feeding, it's time to help bring democracy to Kosovo with a sing-song - Samurai puts on karaoke nights every Friday and Saturday from 23:00. ▶ Restaurant open 11:30 - 14:30, 18:00 - 22:30. Fri, Sat until 23:00. Sun closed. Bar open later. (€6-12). ☹

Mexican

Mexicana B-4, Rr. Abdyl Frasheri 22, tel. 22 91 39. Good, though relatively pricey Mexican dishes can be found just up the hill from the national library. Some effort has gone into the kitsching up of the windowless interior with hats, rugs and instruments, and on Friday and Saturday evenings the place is livened up even more by the Mexicana band. The starters (from €2.50) and main dishes (€6-9) are authentic, with proper ingredients and heat. Spicy tacos, enchiladas, fajitas and quesadilla con queso are all available, as are specials like chicken in orange sauce and beefsteak in tequila sauce. Beware all ye bashful - no locks on the toilets. ▶ Open 11:00 - 24:00. ☹

Seafood

Rio 2 A-2, Rr. Fehmi Agani, tel. 044 62 11 15. Fish, glorious fresh fish, either from the Montenegrin coast or from Kosovo's lakes and streams. Sea bass, squid, octopus salad, scampi pizza, Mexican fishfilet and pancakes for desert are a few samples from the menu. A power cut plunged most of our dinner here in darkness, but what we saw of the restaurant interior wasn't too inspiring - concentrate on the food. Take-away available - the fourth pizza is free. The original and equally good Rio fish restaurant is east of the centre. ▶ Open 08:00 - 23:00. Also on Rr. Germia (Rio 1, tel. 24 52 39).

Steak

Saloon Steakhouse

Rr. Gazmend Zajmi. Away from the centre, up and over the hill east of town, the merry Saloon Steakhouse expertly grills seven different kinds of steak (from 250 grams up) on the open fire. Alternatively there's lamb steak, steak sandwiches, chicken wings and squid. The wooden top-floor room with views to the mountains actually resembles a saloon, especially when things get loud when the band plays on Saturday and Sunday evenings. ▶ Open 10:00 - 24:00.

Thai

Thai

A-3, Rr. Luan Haradinaj, tel. 044 14 07 91, thairestaurant@hotmail.com. The Thai chefs at this well-named place rustle up authentic food in simple surroundings; a painting with a woman who's been given the Picasso treatment is the only decoration. Small portions are available too. Find Thai in the courtyard behind the Phoenix bar. ▶ Open 11:00 - 23:00. (€7-11).

Dialling Kosovo:
Landlines: +381-38, Mobiles: +381-62
or +381-63, Telenor mobiles: +377-44

Turkish

Istanbul A-2, Rr. Luan Haradinaj, tel. 063 757 39 44. Pristina's premier Turkish restaurant is a small affair with seating situated at the back of the restaurant - meaning you get to walk through the delicious smells emanating from the kitchen as you go in. Specialities include the Iskender döner meat dish with yoghurt and vegetables, washed down with Efes beer. ▶ Open 07:00 - 23:00. ☑



Madhësia ka rëndësi



For Kosovars, the difference between a café, a bar, the local disco and indeed their living rooms or workplaces is extremely fluid. What may be a quiet place for a cappuccino now may be a stomping bar in an hour. Some cafés listed here are equally good as nightlife spots.

Agape B-3, Rr. Gazmend Zajmi, tel. 044 13 64 90. A quiet, quirky and distinctively orange café run by Christians, and remarkable for many things including a complete lack of alcohol and a strict no-smoking policy. Hardly happening, it does at least offer those who wish to stay the right side of healthy somewhere to go, and the homemade snacks are very good indeed. Note that you can also order homemade chocolate and carrot cakes here. ▶ Open 09:00 - 21:00, Sun 15:00 - 21:00. ☺

Café e Vogel A-2, Rr. Fehmi Agani 50, tel. 044 13 78 24. Run by a friendly local who spent years in the UK, the 'small café' is a very relaxed place for a coffee, beer and chat. Visited by an alternative crowd of young students and foreigners, the two rooms have sofa and ottoman seating, there are English-language books for reading, and even when it's busy it's not too smoky. During daytime, special Kosovar food is served, including spinach pastry (served for Sunday brunch) and savoury doughnuts with sweet and sour dips (eaten for breakfast). Best of the lot must be an intricate local snack called fil (pronounced flea) which is a dense pancake with up to 50 layers of thin dough, cream and butter (it takes hours to make), which is eaten with cheese and jam. ▶ Open 08:30 - 23:30, Sun 11:00 - 23:30.

Cinema Café A-2, Rr. Migjeni, tel. 24 78 00. The café attached to the ABC-1 cinema is nothing special - except for what must be Pristina's weirdest seating option, a 20-metre stretched Buick Century named Marilyn. ▶ Open 08:00 - 23:00.

Contra A-3, Johan V. Hahn 2, tel. 044 26 54 22. Large and scruffy, Contra is, as the name implies, against things. The radical bunch who choose to spend their time here include such dangerous beasts as actors and students, many of whom are quite vociferous on the subject of being yourself and changing the world (apparently achieved by sitting and drinking coffee in Contra all day). Actually rather good fun, come during the day and drink coffee with all manner of friendly locals or chance your arm after dark when many of the city's top DJs pop in to infuse the air with fresh revolutionary sounds. ▶ Open 08:00 - 03:00.

Dilan B-2, Rr. Mustafa Kruja 5, tel. 044 26 44 80. Pristina's best-looking coffeehouse and patisserie is a pleasant place for a snack or light lunch, or for reading a book. Dilan serves up good cakes, sandwiches, muffins, donuts, pizza, sticky baklava and a variety of drinks (espresso €0.70-1). ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00.

ICE A-3, Rr. P. Justinian, tel. 35 25 27. Ripped red PVC booths, loitering teenagers and black and white photographs of London buses shed no light whatsoever on why ICE is named after a high-speed train, but that's not the point. The point is in actual fact that ICE serves great hot chocolate and rubbish pizza, and appears to be the place where young men come to learn the art of sitting in a café and doing nothing all day. ▶ Open 08:00 - 23:00.

In Joy Café A-2, Rr. Rexhep Luci, tel. 044 19 88 10. Corny name, nice café. The mixed crowd of visitors is greeted by attentive staff, and the place is quite cosy with its wooden floors, leather seats, sofas, and non-intrusive house music. Wine, coffee and bar drinks are on offer, and there's a PC terminal for free internet browsing. ▶ Open 08:00 - 23:00, Sun 12:00 - 23:00. ☑

Prestige A-4, Bul. Bill Clinton, tel. 044 11 21 18. A quiet and small brick-lined double-decker café with some foreign magazines for sale. ▶ Open 07:00 - 24:00.

Rings 1 A-3, Rr. Garibaldi, tel. 24 42 90. Featuring lots of brown, a modicum of chrome and some cool curvy seating Rings' flagship café offers a small range of snacks and drinks and little else. Sort of themed along Western lines but not really hitting the mark, it's a decent enough place for quiet meetings, and is thankfully saved from total obscurity with the aid of a rather good breakfast pancake menu and one of the finest salad bars this side of California. ▶ Open 07:00 - 23:00. Closed Sun.

Syri i Kalter B-3, Bul. Nëne Tereza, tel. 044 20 92 92. It's back to the 1950s at the Blue Eyes café. The large space isn't exactly intimate, with just some instruments hung on the walls as decoration, but at the back there are counters with smiley staff serving coffee and sweet sticky cakes.

Ice cream

Elida A-3, Rr. Luan Haradinaj, Pallati i Rinise complex, tel. 22 13 82. Great home made ice-cream served as such or in extravagant coupes, though coffee and cakes are also available. Find Elida inside the Pallati i Rinise mall, with what look like train seats, and equipped with huge windows to see and be seen. ▶ Open 07:00 - 23:00.

Mozart A-3, Rr. Luan Haradinaj, tel. 044 42 25 55. Angular padded chrome seating, a tiled floor and a stained glass ceiling create a vague sense of seaside jollity in this humdrum ice cream parlour that also serves see-through espresso. On the corner of Rr. Rexhep Luci. ▶ Open 08:00 - 22:00. Closed Sun. ☑☑



There are enough bars and clubs in Pristina to keep all but the most demanding snobs satisfied. The influx of foreigners has brought with it a few excellent choices, but even the places frequented by the locals are better than many you'll find in some of the bigger Balkan cities. This is basically down to Albanian hospitality, which is, in short, second to none. The great thing about Pristina is that it's so small you can move from bar to bar until you find something you like. As well as crawling the nightlife in the city centre around Rruga Fehmi Agani and Rruga Garibaldi, the other good place to try is the Santea neighbourhood, at the eastern end of Bul. Bill Clinton. Note that a few places listed under *Cafés* such as the Café e Vogel and In Joy are also good night spots. If you're here on a mission, look for the UNMIK SRC (Staff Recreation Committee) parties. And just in case you'd forgotten, Kosovo is a male-dominated society, and many bars in the city are frequented entirely by men. There's nothing to say that women can't drink in them, but if a place does look particularly masculine then women might like to think twice about staying.

Bars

You know you've made it when you are allowed (or can brag yourself) into the Friday evening drinking sessions in the UNMIK complex, or in OSCE's ninth-floor restaurant. Lesser mortals can avail of a good selection of other bars.

Apartment 195 A-3, Rr. Garibaldi, tel. 044 41 00 21. Looking a lot like the hotel room you are trying to escape, Apartment 195 is a relaxed bar with some decorative books, modern art on the walls and low seating. Jazz, chilled house and Latino tunes are on the stereo. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00. ☑

Avenue Bar A-2, Rr. Fehmi Agani 48, tel. 044 61 02 10. A slick and trendy establishment popular with Pristina's slick and trendy professionals, the suave ground floor bar is often packed with good-looking locals and features a pleasantly quirky ambience, Frank Sinatra tunes and brightly coloured cocktails by the lorry load, whilst the more subdued and altogether hipper cellar has been transformed into a bright red Oriental den of delight for the more pretentious. Owned by a local minor musical celebrity, expect live piano music from time to time. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00. ☑

www.inyourpocket.com

Bamboo A-3, Rr. Garibaldi 17, tel. 044 43 08 40. Loud, smoky, minimalist and very peculiar indeed, Bamboo thrives on a faded 1980s theme of snazzy décor for sophisticated folk who appreciate a good glass of claret and what appears to be the usual range of unemployed local men and the occasional passing VIP. If you like wine and ear damage then you've just found your home away from home, otherwise it's perhaps best to avoid. Booking a table in the evening is highly recommended. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00.

Baraka A-2, Rr. Fehmi Agani, tel. 044 37 50 84. Stuck on the dreary little corner that leads to the fabulous Tiffany's restaurant, wade through the mud and rubbish to this no-frills, double-decker summer cottage-style bar popular with students and the usual collection of sinister-looking middle-aged men hiding from their families. Décor comes courtesy of candles in paper bags and the toilet is outside, but if you can live with the basic requirements then Baraka offers a fairly convivial atmosphere without the aggravation of loud-mouthed expats for a relatively relaxed evening with friends. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00.

City Pub A-2, Rr. Fehmi Agani 44/2, tel. 044 13 25 97. A very average and modern bar featuring lots of soft, high-backed chairs, a crowd of mostly male 20-somethings, and jazz oozing out of the loudspeakers. Close to a couple of other similar drinking establishments, if it's not doing it for you here there are plenty of other places to try. One thing worth noting here is that they're very fast at getting the generator going when the electricity conks out. These things all have to be taken into consideration when out and about in Kosovo. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00.

CM (Architects Café) B-3, Rr. Sylejman Vokshi 14a, tel. 044 14 98 14. A buzzing bar in an oblong space with sofa seating and large windows. Filled mostly with students from the surrounding university buildings, it's a raucous place for a beer or to listen to the bands that drop by now and then. Kosovo beer €1.50. The bar is unmarked - look for the weird designer doorway. ▶ Open 07:00 - 24:00. Closed Sun. ☑



Kaqa (Outback) A-2, Rr. Fehmi Agani. Officially called Outback but not widely known as such, Kaqa is perhaps Pristina's prime lounge bar. Set back from the street amidst a cluster of venues, the large wooden shack has lounging space at the front, backed up by a bar and more seating space. A good selection of cocktails and drinks is on offer, but despite the raucous crowd there's unfortunately no dancing. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00.

Legere A-3, Rr. Perandori Justinijan 2, tel. 044 22 18 29. A brand new, modern restaurant and bar that has been very successful at attracting the beautiful people. Serving light food such as pastas, sandwiches and salads until 22:00, this ultramodern lounge bar has very comfortable chairs and sofas, and a great party atmosphere on weekend nights. ▶ Open 08:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 08:00 - 03:00.

Lounge 19 A-3, Rr. Garibaldi 19, tel. 044 20 80 92. The only place in the country sure enough about its address to dare name itself after its street number. Comfortable leather chairs provide prime views of the vermouth and absinth posters in the café. Come for coffee and cocktails. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00.

Mollëkuqja A-2, Rr. Migjeni, tel. 044 50 28 66. A distinctively local and not unpleasant bar frequented by a fairly smart after-work crowd of young professionals and the occasional local character. Features include a big stone bar, abstract art on the walls, ice-cold bottled beer and decent espresso. The Albanian-only menu isn't going to win any cookery awards for the foreseeable future, but they do a very good and much sought after thin crust pizza for shirt buttons if you're hungry. Handy for the cinema across the road if you're too embarrassed to sit in that particular establishment's rather silly and exceedingly long car. ▶ Open 07:00 - 24:00. Closed Sun.

Morena A-4, Bul. Bill Clinton 8, tel. 044 11 51 16. Boasting 28 different cocktails including a mintless mojito at the time of writing, wireless internet, jazz on Sunday evenings plus F1 and Champions League on the television, Morena, if you can be buggered to walk that far, is a breath of fresh air indeed. A bar that wouldn't look out of place in London or Berlin, the place is generally packed out in the evenings with a pleasant, young professional crowd. In a city with far too many ghastly bars, this one can't come highly recommended enough. It's just a shame they can't move it a bit to the right. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00.

MYC A-3, Rr. Garibaldi 21, tel. 044 21 03 25. The small, trendy-looking 'my café' feeds MTV and smoke to a 30-ish crowd. Seated on cream couches you can down a coffee or various bar drinks while listening to Latin jazz and, in the evening, house music.

Phoenix A-3, Rr. Brigada, tel. 044 12 45 84. Pristina's premier expat watering hole, previously known as Kukri, hugs the fence northeast of the UNMIK compound. Football memorabilia decorate the simple lout-proof interior that's always buzzing with languages. Any morning homesickness is greased away with the €4 full English fry-up breakfast, while later on the day the international community spends its hardship allowances on pizza, burgers, steak, the famous Sunday evening British roast (€5) and Guinness (€4). Visit on Fridays for live rock music. ▶ Open 07:00 - 24:00. ☑

Publicco A-3, Rr. Garibaldi 7, tel. 044 62 69 27, www.gizzigroup.com. A stylish and relaxed bar featuring black and red steel, stone walls and very friendly staff. Chocaholics can slurp their way through 11 types of hot chocolate; serious drinkers can focus on the good cocktails and coffee - which is also available to go. Publicco also has one of the more advanced bar websites in town. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00, Sat 09:00 - 24:00.

Queen's Shilling A-4, Bul. Bill Clinton, tel. 044 62 96 89. A popular bar with a zebra-motif ceiling, at the bottom end of a double row of busy cafés along Boulevard Bill. The large semi-circular space is good for people-watching and is usually filled with students downing coffee, while MTV and football are displayed on the screens. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00. ☑

Strip Depot A/B-2, Rr. Rexhep Luci 6/1, tel. 22 28 88. There's nothing lewd about the Strip Depot, lads, in fact it's one of Pristina's most pleasant nightlife spots. The classic wallpaper, sofas and camel seats give the Depot a crash pad atmosphere, and there's free wi-fi, relaxed music and comics available for the 30-ish crowd to browse. Yugoslav-era comics in Albanian and Serbian are for sale too. Drinks only. ▶ Open 07:30 - 24:00, Sun 09:00 - 24:00. ☑

Tricky Dick's A-3, Rr. Kosta Novakovic, tel. 044 20 28 14. Started in December 1998, even before NATO intervention, and named after Richard Holbrooke, the US diplomat who tried to prevent the Kosovo mess, this was Pristina's first expat bar. Under new management, it's not the international meeting place it used to be, but it's well placed for the hotels along the street and serves pizza, sandwiches and pancakes. ▶ Open 07:00 - 23:00. Closed Sun.

Zullu Bar A-4, Bul. Bill Clinton, tel. 044 29 69 61. One of many busy cafés along this nightlife stretch - Zullu is owned by Carlos, who seems even younger than his schoolkid clientele. Zullu has a weird white ceiling, worn seats and plays a mix of rock and house.



Body language and sounds

Like Bulgarians, Turks, Indians and a handful of others, the locals here shake (or perhaps: wobble) their heads to mean 'yes' and nod (or rather jerk the head backwards while emitting a bold cluck) to mean 'no'. Every time you see it done, it's a pleasant little culture shock.

Pubs

Irish Pub A-4, Bul. Bill Clinton, tel. 044 18 51 75. There's nothing quite like an Irish pub that's got nothing to do with Ireland or that closes at lunchtime on a Sunday, and so there's nothing quite like this wonderful disaster. Essentially a wooden-clad shipping container full of sleepy locals, its only claim to fame is that it was the first Irish pub to open in Pristina. The other quite extraordinary thing about this place is that there's a real live lady behind the bar, something you don't see every day in Kosovo. So it's not all bad news then. On the drinks front, there's not a great choice beyond a few bottled lagers, although the owners claim that there'll be Guinness for sale any day now. Heading west down Bul. Bill Clinton it's tucked away in a courtyard on the right hand side. ▶ Open 07:00 - 24:00, Sun 07:00 - 12:00.

Irish Pub A-2, Rr. Luan Haradinaj. Irish, Albanian and US flags, football scarves, draught Guinness and several kilometres of shamrock bunting all do their best to transform this dreary little watering hole into something a little more exotic. Now that this is no longer the main place to be seen, they fail to do that most of the time. Sometimes the tables turn and this place becomes a heaving den of foreign and local bodies drinking and dancing and smoking all night - and then your best option is perhaps to avoid it. Find it right opposite the OSCE building.

XL A-3, Bul. Nëne Tereza, tel. 044 22 49 48. A nice pub-style café more or less opposite the National Library, with a vibrant atmosphere and without all the Irish Pub paraphernalia you usually end up looking at. Sit, smoke, drink, wobble home. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00.

Live music

Zanzibar B-2, Rr. Hajdar Dushi, tel. 15 21 55. An old Pristina expat favourite, the Zanzibar is a shabby, time-worn basement bar with a wall of smoke and loud live rock music every Friday and Saturday. With just one small entrance/exit it's going to be a Darwinian rush to the doors if anything happens down there. Find Zanzibar down the steps in the alley. ▶ Open 19:00 - 03:00. Closed Sun. ☒



Clubs

Cube A-3, Rr. Johan Hahn 2, tel. 044 12 45 84. Just down the alley off Rruga Garibaldi, you enter the large bar area of Cube. There's a terrace on the roof but all the action is downstairs in the swish club area, where DJs play a mixed styles of music on Wednesday and weekend nights. Cocktails are served from 20:00 by a Viennese barman. Admission for well-dressed, over-20, non-square people only. ▶ Open 09:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 09:00 - 04:00. ☒

Depot A-2, Rr. UCK, tel. 044 24 67 07. A small club with a large mirror, striped wallpaper and featuring regular live rock music behind a wall of cigarette smoke. Find the club behind the Qafa Building, near the OSCE office. ▶ Open 22:00 - 03:00. Closed Sun.

Home Disco B-2, Bul. Nëne Tereza, Iliria Hotel. The mainstream disco in the basement of the Iliria hotel attracts young locals and the odd foreigner.

Internet Disco

A-4, Rr. Mbret Zogu I, 16, tel. 044 30 79 04. The small club beneath the closed-down Swiss Casino does not offer internet access, but has gleaming marble floors surrounded by pillars and booth seating. It's known locally to host great parties, sometimes with indie bands playing. Closed in the summer months.

Casinos

Casinos in Eastern Europe always seem dodgy - they put on an intimidating show with their bulldog security, secret guest lists, 'no guns' signs and golden taps in the loos, but in the end they never seem to attract clean investors or clients. The large glam Swiss Casino on Rr. Mbreti Zogu I was raided and closed down by the police just after we went to review it. Visit at your own peril.

King Casino

B-3, Rr. Agim Ramadani 4, tel. 038 24 62 30, king-casino@ipko.net. A Turkish-owned glittering palace of gaudiness on the corner of Rr. Rrustem Stavocvi. In the spacious downstairs rooms there's roulette, blackjack, Caribbean poker and several slotmachines (from €0.10) and electronic roulette (from €1). Free drinks and cigars are available to gamblers, as is a warm buffet in the upstairs bar. Remember to dress up, leave your gun at home and bring ID. ▶ Open 16:00 - 05:00. Slot machines from 14:00. Admission free.

Like most Balkan cities, Pristina was a small and dusty market town until fairly recently. The city suffered bombing in the Second World War (and again during the 1999 Kosovo crisis) but unfortunately suffered most damage to its cultural monuments due to socialist planning and modern-day neglect. In the 1950s, demolition of parts of the old centre took place in the name of building a new socialist city - publications at the time boast that „old shop fronts and other shabby old structures are quickly disappearing to make room for fine tall, modern-style buildings.” The lovely little Catholic Church was demolished, as was the region's largest covered market, a mosque (which made way for the Iliria hotel), the synagogue, a hamam bath house and many Ottoman-era houses. The rivers Pristevka and Vellushka were hidden beneath concrete. This all goes to explain the apparent dearth of sights here. It's a scary fact that the careless attitude of the 1950s still lives on. Several listed buildings have disappeared without trace over the past few years and the remaining monuments are often in poor condition. What's even worse is that people protecting Pristina's cultural heritage are in danger. In 2000, city planner Rexhep Luci was conducting an inventory of destroyed historic buildings and unauthorised wild construction when he was murdered on the street; the crime is still unsolved and illegal buildings are still going up. Despite all this, it's pleasant to stroll around the former bazaar area, taking in the lively goings-on at the markets or watching the mosques fill up at prayer time.

Museums

Ethnological Museum (Emin Gjik complex) B-1, Rr. Zija Prishtina 1. The traditional 18th century house became part of the Kosovo Museum in 1957 and was turned into a small ethnographic museum in 2003. Known as Emin Gjik's house, a nickname for Emin Gjinnolli, whose family owned the house, the complex holds the only original building left in the old bazaar area. ▶ Open 09:30 - 17:30, Sat, Sun 11:00 - 15:00. Closed Mon. Admission free.

Kosova Art Gallery B-3, Rr. Agim Ramadani 60, tel. 22 78 33, gak@ipko.org, www.kosovaart.com. Close to the bizarre-looking central library this relatively large exhibition building is made up of two exhibition halls covering almost 500 square metres and showcasing shows of mostly 2D work by local, and primarily young, artists. Owned and operated by the Ministry of Culture & Sports, the Kosova Art Museum also does a lot of educational work with young children. In front of the entrance stands Pristina's most interesting public artwork - a constellation of metal beams jutting out over the footpath like mikado sticks. ▶ Open 10:00 - 14:00, 15:00 - 18:00, Sun 10:00 - 15:00. Closed Sun.

Kosovo Museum B-2, Sheshi Adam Jashari, tel. 24 99 64. This pretty ochre-painted villa housing the Kosovo Museum was built by Austrians for the Turkish army in 1898, and was used by the Yugoslav national army until 1975. The museum used to have a rich collection of prehistoric objects uncovered in Kosovo - these were all spirited off to Belgrade just before the troubles started in 1998 and many yet have to be returned. The main sight is the late Neolithic clay statue of the sitting goddess, found at Tjertorja in 1955 and featured in Pristina's city emblem. In front of the building lies the grandly named Archeological Park, which just contains a few stones and rusting artillery. The 'no more guns' exhibition on the first floor ironically has weapons on display; AK-47s, hand grenades, hunting rifles, Bowie knives, 9mm pistols and nasty 50mm tripod-mounted sniper rifles. Texts are in Albanian only. Outside, you'll find the things they couldn't cart off to Belgrade - several Jewish and Muslim tombstones. ▶ Open 09:30 - 17:30, Sat, Sun 11:00 - 15:00. Closed Mon. Admission free.



Ottoman Pristina

Academy building B-2, Rr. Nazim Gafurri. Right next to the clock tower stands another of Pristina's few remaining 19th century Ottoman konak-style private houses. It is currently used by the Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Bazaar B-1. Pristina's liveliest area is without doubt the large bazaar, east of Rruga Ilir Konusheci. Although most of the old character was destroyed in the 1950s, it still retains the bustling atmosphere typical of all Balkan markets. All kinds of goods are for sale: fruit, vegetables, Albanian flags, cigarettes (stacked up in walls of cartons), kitchen utensils, car parts, dodgy mobile phones and more, making for a fascinating stroll. Many of the friendly traders are returned refugees and know German, Italian or English, and will be happy to strike up conversation.

Carshi Mosque (Xhamia e Carshise) B-2, Rr. Meto Bajraktari. The 'town mosque' or 'stone mosque' is Pristina's oldest building, constructed in the 15th century by Turkish Sultan Bajazit to commemorate the 1389 victory. Now no longer part of the old bazaar complex but marooned right in front of the Kosovo Museum, the one-room mosque used to have a mausoleum, which didn't survive the ages.



Ibrahim Rugova's Grave

C-3, Park of Martyrs. An estimated half a million people turned out to bid farewell to the former president of Kosovo, Ibrahim Rugova, as his coffin passed through the streets of Pristina on January 26, 2006, five days after the chain-smoking, so-called Gandhi of the Balkans lost his fight with lung cancer at the age of 61. Born the only son of a well-off peasant family in the small village of Cerroë near Istog on December 2, 1944, Kosovo's unlikely hero studied linguistics at the Sorbonne in Paris before pursuing a successful career as a writer and professor of linguistics. His father was killed by the Communists at the end of WWII, a fact that must have had some influence on Rugova, whose rise through the ranks of politics and the intellectual elite found him being elected head of Kosovo's politically charged Writers' Union in 1989, the same year Slobodan Milosevic stripped Kosovo of its autonomous status and started the anti-Albanian regime that led to the 1999 conflict. In December 1989 Rugova and a number of other leading intellectuals and activists set up the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK), of which he was elected leader. Boasting a membership of practically every adult Kosovar Albanian, the LDK established a shadow government with Rugova as its figurehead. Initially a hero for his passive resistance to Serbian rule, Rugova lost credibility after the 1995 Dayton Agreement, which effectively brought about the creation of the paramilitary Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) in 1997, and the war two years later. Rugova fled Kosovo to Italy during the conflict, returning shortly after to a hero's welcome. The end of the conflict saw the KLA lose favour with the population, and Rugova was soon back at the top of the political pile. On March 4, 2002, Rugova was officially made president, and continued to play the passive hand, bringing together the various parties in the conflict and leading Kosovo along the path of independence. Still hugely controversial, the dapper and somewhat eccentric president, who was almost never seen without his trademark cravat and who would give items from his crystal collection away as gifts to foreign dignitaries he met, escaped several assassination attempts before skillfully bringing everyone to the negotiation table. In September 2005 Rugova announced that he was suffering from lung cancer, and despite receiving chemotherapy lost the fight and died on January 21, 2006, just before the final negotiations for independence were about to begin. The Muslim Rugova was buried in a secular ceremony (there were rumours that he had converted to Catholicism towards the end of his life) in Pristina's Park of Martyrs that occupies a substantial part of the side of Velania hill overlooking the city. His grave can be found just past the Martyr's Monument and some KLA graves. Rugova, who was married with three children, never got to see his dream of independence, but without him it's certain that the dream would be a lot further away than it is today.



National Library B-3, Sheshi Hasan Prishtina, tel. 24 96 50, www.biblioteka-ks.org. Unleashed on a bewildered public in 1982, Pristina's extraordinary National Library was designed by the Croatian architect Andrija Mutnjakovic to avoid any ethnic disputes in what was already a racially volatile Kosovo. Originally slated for construction in Kuwait, the outside of the mammoth 16,500 square metre space-age building features a total of 99 white glass cupolas of different sizes and is entirely covered in wire netting. Simultaneously gorgeous and absurd, the library was once home to a huge depository of Albanian literature, much of which, thanks to the enlightened leadership of Slobodan Milosovic, was turned into cardboard in the early 1990s. The equally beguiling interior which has some photos of old Pristina still contains over 5,000 fine examples of old and rare books and manuscripts, dating back to the 16th century. The library also holds many foreign titles, and membership is open to anyone.

National Martyr's Monument C-3, Park of Martyrs. Topping the grassy park at the top of Velania and near President Rugova's grave, the Yugoslav-era Martyr's Monument honours the partisans that died during the liberation of the region in World War II. The monument consists of a platform with a metal globe shape on a stick, surrounded by several concrete shells sticking out of the ground. Ignored and vandalised, it has a haunting beauty, and also offers great views over the city and the mountains beyond.

Pallati i Rinisë (Youth Centre) A-3, Rr. Luan Haradinaj, tel. 29 54 30, www.pallatirinese.com. The massive *Pallati i Rinisë dhe Sportit* (youth and sports centre) from 1977 is an unmissable Pristina landmark and a nice example of Yugoslav-era city planning. In 1981 the Universal Centre sports complex and the shopping centre (apparently not touched since construction) were added. The youth centre has an assembly hall, disco, concert and sports halls and a Pioneer's centre - now catering to children without brainwashing them into good little communists. Planned but as of yet not realised are swimming pools, a hotel and the renovation of the adjacent stadium. The bearded man depicted on the building is local hero Adem Jashari, a UCK commander who was killed in 1998 together with some 50 others (including nearly his entire family) by the Serb police.

Parks

Gërmia Park. In the hills just east of town, this large park at the end of bus lines N°4,5 and 9 has a popular open-air swimming pool that's the size of a lake, and endless forests to ramble through - though you should stick to the paths which are mine-free. Skiing is possible here in winter too.

Parku i Qytetit (City park) C-2/3. East of the centre, the city park is a pleasant, cleaned-up area with concrete paths, trees and places to sit and play chess in the shade.

Other sights

Jewish Cemetery Tauk Bahqe hill. The 19th century Jewish Cemetery on top of Velania's Tauk Bahqe dates from the time that Pristina's Jewish community numbered some 1500 souls. It holds about 50 tombstones which are now overgrown with weeds. After 500 years of presence in Pristina since their immigration from Spain in 1492, the Jewish community that remained after the deportations of World War II was forced to leave in June 1999 and resettled in Belgrade.

Mother Teresa statue B-3, Bul. Nënë Tereza. A small and humble statue of Mother Teresa, a nun of ethnic Albanian origin (born in Skopje in what is now Macedonia) who devoted her life to the poor in India.

Photos of the missing B-2, Bul. Nënë Tereza. A poignant reminder of the Kosovo crisis, the gates at the northern end of the street have dozens of photos of Kosovars who have been missing since the conflict.

Skenderbeu statue B-2, Bul. Nënë Tereza. The monument of Gjergj Kastrioti Skenderbeu is the proud new focal point of Bul. Nënë Tereza, paying homage to the Albanian superhero who successfully fought in the struggle against the Ottomans in the fifteenth century. Brightly lit at night and surrounded by a small plaza, the pedestal seems formed by a plis, the traditional Albanian egg-shaped hat. The statue was designed by Albanian artist Janaq Paco in 2001.

St. Nicholas Church C-1, Rr. Shkodra. The only active Serbian Orthodox church in Pristina was damaged by fire during the 2004 riots. A temporary roof now covers the low 19th century building and its valuable icon screen from 1840.



Union Hotel building B-2, Bul. Nënë Tereza. Built in 1927, the two-storey former Union Hotel next to the National Theatre is a typical eclectic building of the early 20th century that wouldn't raise an eyebrow in most Central European cities, but in Pristina is distinctly different for its dainty decorations. It currently stands derelict and half empty.

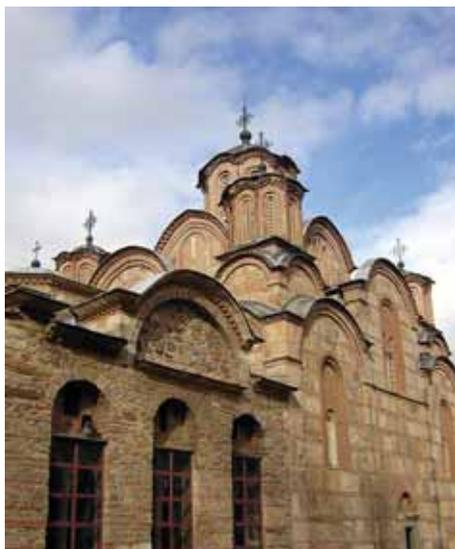
Zahir Pajaziti statue A/B-3, Bul. Nënë Tereza. Opposite the Grand Hotel, this new statue commemorates Zahir Pajaziti (1962-1997), a UCK fighter based in the Llapia area. He was killed in action and is now considered one of the biggest patriots during the Kosovo crisis - you'll always see fresh flowers at the statue.

Around town

Kosovo Heroes Monument. Perhaps the only monument in the world proudly commemorating an embarrassing defeat stands about 200 metres off the Pristina-Mitrovica road on the Kosovo Field (Fushë Kosovo, or Kosovo Polje). The tower built in 1953 by architect Alexander de Roco for the anniversary of the 1389 Battle of Kosovo has lost much of its lustre since the demise of Yugoslavia. Once a symbol of Serb resistance against the Turks, it was used by Milosevic as a backdrop to his 1989 speech during the 600th anniversary of the defeat, rallying the crowds for the Serbian cause - this is when the weird concrete tubes were added alongside the tower. The UN soldiers guarding the structure can give an English-language printout of what you see. You can climb to the top of the tower for the view of the plateau and the mountains beyond.

Sultan Murad's Tomb (Tyrbja e Sulltan Muratit) Mazgit, 7km west of Pristina. Along the Pristina-Mitrovica road in Mazgit village, this tomb was built on the spot where the Turkish Sultan Murad was killed during the 1389 Kosovo Battle. At first just a plain memorial, a grander mausoleum was erected in the 19th century. The square building has a porch with domes that is embellished with Ottoman Baroque decorations, and is surrounded by a nice garden. The guard can show you inside, where there's a simple coffin-shaped stone with a green cloth draped over it, and carpets on the floor. There's a sign French about the history of the building. The tomb is the focal point of the annual St George (Shen Gjergj) festival.

Ulpiana. Near Gracanica, excavations revealed the Roman-era town of Ulpiana, built near the silver and lead mines that made Kosovo so important for the Roman Empire. The remains of roads, public and religious buildings have been found. There's not much to see nowadays, though a few restored 4th-6th century graves can be visited at the city necropolis.



to the Dormition of the Holy Virgin, the monastery's present form has slowly taken shape over the centuries. It is built with alternating layers of brick and stone and takes the form of a double inscribed cross, one inside the other. Its real beauty is hidden within, where several distinct periods of painting are visible, starting with the earliest in the nave, whose frescoes date from the time of the monastery's completion. Extremely well preserved, these paintings depict the early life of Jesus as well as the representations of the ecclesiastical calendar. Painting continued over for the next few hundred years, with additions including some wonderful frescoes added inside the recently remodelled narthex sometime around 1570. Look for the wall featuring the fresco of the Day of Judgement, with terrifying examples of sinners (recognisable as Turks) going to Hell in a vast river of fire; elsewhere you can see portraits of the church architect and his queen. The frescoes rank among the highest achievements of Milutin's Nemanjic rule, though some parts are darkened by soot or disfigured with scratched names. Several books about the frescoes, postcards and religious items are available for sale at the entrance.



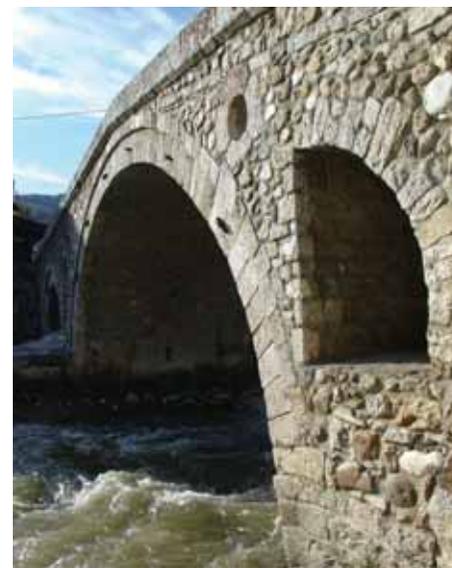
This is the only place where you can pick up a copy of *Crucified Kosovo*, a book documenting all the Orthodox churches and monasteries that have been damaged or destroyed in Kosovo since the crisis, many while under the watch of UNMIK soldiers - in the foreword, the highest Orthodox religious official in Kosovo blames the greed of Belgrade politicians for the situation. Having suffered the worst effects of the numerous wars in the region, the monastery escaped the fate of so many others in 1999 and is now permanently guarded by Swedish KFOR troops. A Serbian enclave, the town itself is a depressing affair, with little to see beyond a lot of depressed-looking locals and Roma. To get there from Pristina, take the bus to Gjiilan, which passes through the town after 15 minutes. When driving, take the main road out of the city towards Skopje and just over hill as you leave the city turn right (signposted Gjiilan; you'll see the large Gorenje building on your left, and this is where you have to go). The monastery entrance is easily spotted - it's under permanent surveillance of UNMIK soldiers; it's a good idea to bring ID. Note that Gracanica is a Serb enclave that sometimes is the focus of unrest, and some embassies warn against visiting. ▶ Open 06:00 - 17:00. Admission free.



Kosovo's historical and cultural capital is 80 kilometres southwest of Pristina, and makes for a pleasant daytrip - though it will only become truly attractive for tourists when more sights are opened for visitors and the burnt-down churches are restored.

Prizren was founded in the Byzantine era beneath mount Sharr along the Lumbardh river. In the 14th century, the city was the seat of the imperial court of the Serb Tsar Stefan Dusan and became an important trading town on the route from Shkodra on the Adriatic coast into the Balkan interior - it was the location of the Ragusan (Dubrovnik) Republic's consulate for Kosovo. Under Ottoman rule the city maintained its important trade town status, and by the 19th century it was mainly Muslim and a cultural centre for Albanians, who started the League of Prizren liberation movement here in 1878. During World War I, Serb forces took the city, massacring hundreds of Albanian inhabitants. After the World War II occupation, the city and Kosovo returned to Serbian control, only to be forced free in 1999. The Kosovo crisis led to the near complete evacuation of the Albanian population, after which the situation was reversed when the Albanian refugees came back and the 10,000 Serbs left. Today, less than 200 remain, in a city of about 165,000 people. Serb forces destroyed and bulldozed the historical Prizren League building on 27 March 1999, which was tit-for-tatted after the crisis with the burning down of several Serb-Orthodox churches and houses, with further vandalism inflicted during the 2004 riots. As a result, the remaining Orthodox buildings are now under guard from bored German KFOR troops.

The small city centre is dominated by the large Sinan Pasha Mosque (1561), with its beautifully painted interior. Wandering around town, you'll see dozens of examples of 18th and 19th-century Ottoman houses which have nearly all disappeared in Pristina. The small cobbled Shadervan square nearby is home to several pleasant bars and cafés, with more drinking options lining the river upstream from the pretty arched 15th century Ottoman bridge. West of the square stands the burnt-out shell of the 19th century church of St. George. Walking up the steep road behind the mosque, you'll climb up past a neighbourhood of destroyed Serb houses, and the small, preserved 14th century Saint Saviour church



(guarded by KFOR troops and stark warning signs) before arriving at the large 11th century Kalaja Fortress with its upper and lower town. Three kilometres upstream, past a series of dramatic gorges, you arrive at the ruins of the huge medieval Monastery of the Holy Archangels.

Back in town and on the other side of the river, beside the nasty Theranda hotel, the beautiful 15th century Gazi Mehmed Pasha Hamam is a well-preserved 15th century dual bath house complex that is currently closed for visitors. It has two symmetrical sections for men and women, and a multitude of cute domes. Across the road stands the lone minaret of the Arasta Mosque that was destroyed in 1963, and just behind it along the river is the rebuilt Prizren League building, which holds a small ethnological museum (tel. 444 87, admission €1). A short walk north of the hamam stands the 12th century Orthodox Cathedral Church of the Virgin of Levisa, placed on UNESCO's List of World Heritage in Danger in 2006 and home to many beautiful medieval frescoes.

Further reading

In 2001, the Council of Europe published a 48-page book called "Architectural and urban heritage of Prizren" containing beautiful photographs of Prizren's monuments and trilingual



texts. Although the 2004 riots have damaged several of the buildings mentioned in the book, it's a great publication, highlighting the diversity of Prizren's treasures. Though the book is not available locally, the photos and texts can be viewed online at www.coe.int/t/dg4/expos/expoprizen/index.html, where you can also request to be mailed a copy of the book free of charge.

Straddling both banks of the Bistrica river at the foot of the awesome Accursed Mountains, the small city of Peja (aka Pejë) is less than a two hours west of Pristina and just a few kilometres east of the Montenegrin border. Probably founded by the Illyrians, and known in Roman times as Pescium, Peja became hugely important to the Mediaeval Serbs (who knew and still know the city as Peć), who based the head of their Orthodox Church on its outskirts for several centuries. Heavily bombed by both the Serbs and Nato forces during the 1999 conflict, when almost the entire Albanian population fled into the mountains or neighbouring Montenegro and much of the town was reduced to smouldering rubble, Peja has been picking itself up and dusting itself down of late. Now a peculiar mix of Albanians, Gypsies and Italian KFOR troops, Peja offers visitors a refreshingly different weekend break away from the chaos of the capital.



Arrival & Transport

Some 70km west of Pristina, Peja is easily reached by both bus and car. Travelling west out of Pristina the journey takes you through the bomb-damaged area of Fushë Kosovë and out into the open countryside. There's not much to see on the way, but you do get an idea of just how rural, old-fashioned and undeveloped Kosovo is. Expect to weave through a few horses and carts as you go, and during the winter don't be surprised to find the road completely blocked by snow.

By bus

Buses offer a cheap, clean(ish) and reasonably civilised way of getting to Peja from the capital, and leave regularly every day from platform N°1 at Pristina's main bus station. A one-way ticket costs €4, and is purchased on board the bus. Buses are often cramped, but the locals are a friendly bunch, and you shouldn't have trouble finding a seat. If you're the kind of person who enjoys staring out of bus windows then check the window before you choose a seat and many are too dirty to see anything other than your own reflection in. Depending on conditions the journey takes from between 90 minutes and six hours.

Getting to town

Peja's small city centre is a 10-minute stumble north over broken pavements lined with empty shops. Taxis wait on the southern edge of the bus station. A ride anywhere will set you back next to nothing. As in Pristina, the taxi drivers in Peja appear to be extremely honest.

By car

Take Bul. Bill Clinton west out of Pristina in the direction of the airport and keep following the signs. The road is scattered with interesting cafés, making a food and/or drink stop an interesting option. Journey time and things to see on the way are the same as for By bus. The road winds into Peja from the east, curving 90 degrees to the right as you start to approach the built up area. Take a left at the old train station, keep going straight and you're in the city centre.



Taxis

Taxis can be found parked all around the centre, and the gentlemen who drive them are as honest as the day is long. A trip anywhere in town will seldom cost more than €2, usually less than half that. If you can negotiate a good deal, taxis also offer a cheap way of seeing the sights outside of the city. The local company Njaci (tel. 337 37, mob. +377 44 39 48 88) seem to be the most popular firm with the locals.

Travel agencies

Euro Tours

Ura e Gurit bb

Tel. 310 77

Open 08:00 - 20:00, Closed Sun

Knowledgeable, English-speaking staff selling long-distance bus tickets to a number of destinations abroad including Skopje. Can also give advice on hiring a car and just about anything else, travel-related or otherwise.

Orientation

The leisurely pace of life in Peja has led to a rather lapse approach to renaming the streets after the 1999 conflict, with many streets referred to by their official number only. Some streets, such as the charmingly named Rr. Madeline Ollbright (Ms. Albright is one of several unlikely heroes in Kosovo), have received a new name, but the process is slow to say the least. Add to this the fact that almost nobody knows their address anyway and the rather alarming realisation that map of Peja simply doesn't exist, and you've got yourself a rather interesting destination. Thankfully most of the main sights are next to each other in the centre, and many of the locals speak good English and will be only too happy to help you with an improvised map scribbled on a napkin.

Internet access

Click.net

Mbreteresha Teuta 122/2

Tel. +377 44 27 55 32

Open 10:00 - 02:00

Fifteen machines and a pot-bellied stove. Go through the empty shop and follow the concrete stairs up.

Money

Almost no establishments accept credit cards in Peja. Carry cash at all times. A 24-hour ATM operated by the local Raiffeisen Bank (Open 08:00 - 17:00, Sat 10:00 - 14:00, Closed Sun), located just north of the Hotel Royal, opposite the huge Chinese-style building. A ProCredit bank (Open 09:00 - 18:00, Sat 09:00 - 14:00, Closed Sun) can be found next door to that.

Where to stay

Not surprisingly, Peja has little to offer in the way of accommodation. Although the following list is by no means exhaustive, booking a room in advance if travelling during the summer months is highly recommended.

Gold

Eliot Engl 122/2

Tel. 345 71

A fairly good attempt at a modern hotel, the central Hotel Gold offers the full renovated experience complete with average sized singles and doubles, good showers, local television, individual heaters during the winter, hair dryers and a couple of smelly bathrooms making choosing your room carefully a wise precaution. As with almost every hotel in the region, the wonky wiring and leaky plumbing were installed by children, but they do have their own generator. Unfortunately there's no air conditioning, making sleeping next to the busy main road outside with the windows wide open during the summer a rather noisy affair.

Singles €40, doubles €50

Peja

Tel. +377 44 40 67 77

Tucked away down a little side street immediately east of the extraordinary Chinese-style former bank, Hotel Peja is quite simply the best choice in town. Featuring good renovated rooms with quality bathrooms coming with a choice of either shower or bath, clean linen, meeting room, huge restaurant and staff who buy you beer, the fact that some of the rooms are a little on the small size is hardly worth mentioning. One word of warning though. The free satellite television channels include several of a very very hard porn variety. Great if that's what you like, but alarming if you're not expecting it.

Singles €30, doubles €40, triples €50



Park

Rr. TMR 13-15

Tel. +377 44 28 28 32

A clean and basic hotel out of the centre and found up a never-ending staircase. The rooms have a hostel-like feel to them, being full of a variety of beds and limited mix and match furniture. There's local television only, no air conditioning, holes in the floor for showers and some great views of the park. The Radisson it isn't, but at €10 a night it is perhaps the best value you're going to find in the city. €10/person. Breakfast not included.

Royal

Tel. 335 58

Fax 335 57

The jewel in the crown of Peja's hotels, the Hotel Royal is located opposite the main square and is doing its best to live up to its name. Doing its best however isn't very good at all. Despite a freshly renovated restaurant and well-dressed staff the rooms are unrenovated and rather brown, with tatty carpets, new showers and nothing else. The chosen home of the original UN troops who moved in just after the 1999 conflict, Hotel Royal does indeed have something of a barrack feel about it. The current manager is a charming and very proud man, who swore blind that he was on the verge of fitting Jacuzzis and televisions (that's right, no televisions) as soon as he possibly can. At the current ridiculous price you'd be a fool to stay here unless everywhere else in town was full.

€38/person



giving them fancy titles that unfortunately never saw a spell-checker before going to the printers. Joking aside, this is by far the best place in town for those who need their surroundings to come with a little class.

Café
William Walker 17
Tel. +377 44 12 64 43
Open 06:00 - 23:00

An entirely unremarkable café (with no name) with cheap canteen furniture, plenty of men and a cymbal for a wall clock that stands head and shoulders above the rest of the bunch thanks to the proprietor's skill in making painfully strong and very good coffee.

Kastrioti
William Walker 12/2
Tel. 221 47
Open 08:00 - 23:00

Tucked away just off the main square, this quintessential small town Balkan restaurant is devoid of charm and brimming with men drinking beer and staring into space. A quirky, pot-bellied stove takes pride of place among scruffy tables with moth-eaten tablecloths and an Albanian-only menu of unambitious dishes. Their version of the classic Skenderbeg is edible, and at €4 feels like good value due to the sheer size of the beast.

Shija Buquku
Old Bazaar
Tel. +377 44 64 83 14
Open 07:00 - 17:00

A seemingly quite ordinary kebab café in the heart of the old bazaar with a reputation by those in the know as making some of the finest kebabs in town. The secret here is to arrive at 10:00 and order what everybody else is eating. The facilities are basic and the food comes on plastic plates with a side dish of unremarkable cabbage and chilli peppers, but it's good food and offers exceptionally good value as well.



Sustenance

Peja is full of restaurants, cafés and bars, most of them overflowing with men watching football, playing cards, and sipping endless cups of Turkish coffee. Still very much a patriarchal society, with a couple of notable exceptions you'll be hard pressed to find women out and about in the evenings. Bars especially seem to be the sole preserve of the male species. If you like good food then our best advice is to sacrifice Western standards (the prevailing restaurant rule in Peja being that the classier a place becomes the worse its food gets) and opt for a meal in one of the cheaper-looking places, where more often than not you'll be rewarded with plates of delicious organic lamb and unbelievably good white cheese from Montenegro.

Al Forno
Rr. Enver Hadri 27
Tel. +377 44 13 61 15
Open 10:00 - 23:00

A sort of Italian hunting lodge with animal skins on the walls, gingham tablecloths and the ubiquitous pot-bellied stove. A brick oven churns out good pizzas including the bizarre chocolate Pizza Nutella, and there are a few other dishes including steak. A good place to sit and drink if it's raining, there's a fine wine list plus Heineken and Becks in bottles.

Art Design
Ali Hadri 51
Tel. +377 44 14 46 22
Open 07:00 - 24:00

Exquisite service, wine in baby carafes, ashtrays in wicker holders, three sumptuous dining areas and a charming terrace. Naturally this is where all the expats congregate, which shouldn't lead one to believe that the food is any good. The English menu is gobbledegook (slices of brea, grep life, frizzle potatoes) and leans heavily on both local and international meat-laden dishes. Art Design take fusion food to new heights, offering microscopic Balkan fare garnished with lettuce on large square plates, and



Sights

Known as Ipek under Ottoman rule, Peja's main sights were nearly all built during this period and the town still boasts some fine examples of grand Ottoman merchants' houses. Most of the city is however depressingly run down, full of litter, and scarred with the effects of the 1999 conflict (large parts of Peja were seriously damaged by both the bombing and the looting). Set against the backdrop of such wonderful mountains, Peja, a sort of tramp in an Armani suit, really is a strange sight indeed. A walking tour of Peja should take in the bazaar, which despite its sorry state thanks mostly to the damage inflicted on it by Serbian paramilitary groups in April and May 1999 still possesses the city's best architecture, including some fine Ottoman-era houses such as the famous Tahir Bey's Palace and Jashar Pasha's House. Also of note is the extraordinary 15th-century Bajrakli Mosque, complete with a charming small graveyard and an intricately carved stone drinking fountain. Dating from 1471, the mosque was seriously damaged in 1999 but has now been completely restored thanks to the help of a number of Italian NGOs. Once home to the region's best craftsman the bazaar still houses one or two small silversmiths, slipper-making workshops and a few examples of other traditional crafts. Also find a few very basic bars and cafés selling superb local food and a modern market offering the usual array of amusing contraband. Saturday sees the arrival of farmers from the mountains, who line the sides of the streets, selling the best white goats' cheese you'll probably ever taste from large wooden tubs. Peja also boasts

Decani Monastery

The ancient, 14th-century monastery of Decani lies sheltered in a chestnut forest, 12 kilometres south of Peja, and is famous for its magnificent and nearly completely preserved frescoes from 1350, depicting scenes from the bible and over 1000 portraits of saints, bishops, archangels and prophets. Founded in 1327 by Tsar Stefan Decanski, the church is dedicated to the Ascension of Christ and also holds the carved icon screen and tomb of Tsar Stefan. The monastery complex is protected by UNESCO and is guarded by KFOR; bring ID and be aware you may not always be allowed in. Visitors are sometimes allowed to spend the night in the simple monastery accommodation.

a fine regional museum (tel. 214 46), which can be found between the bazaar and the Royal Hotel. During research the museum was closed, but we're assured it does open. Other sights around town include the fine old Ottoman train station (now disused), some 300m east of the bazaar, a walk around the newer part of town to the west of the bazaar, and a visit to the City Park, which can be found south of the Royal Hotel and which contains some rather wonderful Communist statues. There are, not surprisingly, no official tour guides in Peja, but there are many people who are in the position to help you get the most from the city. Ask around and you should be in luck. Peja is that sort of place.

Patriarchate of Peć

It's odd that the main tourist sight in what's now an almost entire Albanian city is the former head of the Serbian Orthodox Church. Now guarded night and day by Italian KFOR troops, the ensemble that makes up the Patriarchate of Peć (pronounced pech) dates from the 13th century and features a number of crumbling former religious buildings, accommodation (the Patriarchate is still inhabited by a small group of Serbian nuns) and the crowning glory that looks like one church but is in fact several small churches built together. The main reason for visiting is without a doubt to see the many extraordinary frescoes, of which many date from the founding of the church. Painted both inside and out, there are too many to mention here, all of them breathtaking and many still in extremely good condition. A small colour booklet in English is available for sale inside the main church for €5, and is essential reading if you want to get the most from your trip. Visits must be planned in advance, and getting in isn't guaranteed. Visits are granted by Lady Dobrila, who speaks excellent English. Call her on tel. 044 15 07 55. If you do get granted permission to enter you'll need to pass a thorough security check with the troops. Take your passport and be ready for a thorough search.



Kosovo is a tiny region, and getting around is often surprisingly fast, sometimes agonisingly slow. Entering from any surrounding country is surprisingly simple, with the exception of Serbia - see the *visa* information for more.

Airport & Airlines

Reborn after near-destruction and a rather silly Russian coup in 1999, Pristina's small airport (PRN, www.airportpristina.com, tel. 595 81 60, flight information tel. 595 83 01) is 16km west of town and has 18 airlines serving 21 destinations. Adria Airways, Austrian Airlines, British Airways, Malev and Turkish Airlines are the main players here, and can be relied on to depart on time - for all other flights it's a good idea to phone in advance to check exact departure times. Officially, you need to be at the airport 2 hours before take-off, but the airport is small and outside of peak travel times one hour should be enough. Getting there takes 20-30 minutes; a taxi ride will cost about €25. The airport bus departs daily at 08:00, 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00 and 17:30 from outside the Grand Hotel; tickets cost €3 and are bought on the bus. Inside the terminal are two bars and a post office (open 09:00-17:00) where you can buy SIM cards and make phone calls or send faxes. PRN was recently named 'Best Small Airport of 2006' by the Airports Council International, but until they make their website useful and scrap the annoying €2 fee to drive in, it gets no awards from us.

Air Prishtina Pristina airport, tel. 54 84 33, infopr@airprishtina.com, www.airprishtina.com. Flights to/from Dusseldorf, Geneva, Stuttgart and Zurich, operated by Edelweiss and other carriers.

Austrian Airlines Pristina airport, tel. 54 84 35, austrianpristinaairport@aia.com, www.aia.com/ks/eng. MCM (see *Travel agents*) is the Austrian Airlines ticketing agent in town.

Club Air, www.clubair.it. Direct budget flights to Rome and Verona.

Germanwings, www.germanwings.com. Weekly budget flights to Cologne.

Malev (Inter Travel Club), tel. 53 55 35. The official agent for Malev. Also at Pristina airport, tel. 50 24 81.

Trains

Since 1999, UNMIK has been responsible for the running of the railway network in Kosovo. Originally built by the French (the Skopje-Mitrovica tracks completed in 1874) and still known to some as the *French road* (Udha e Frengut), it is now seemingly more operated as an exercise in ethnic harmony than a useful service. The railway website carries many claims of Albanians and Serbians working together for a common railway cause but fails to give much information about where and when trains run. Trains should only be used to get to Skopje and Belgrade, else only by fanatics who'll also be interested to note that F trains are FOMs, or Freedom of Movement trains. Tickets are cheap and prices are determined by the number of zones

Flight schedule

From Pristina			To Pristina			
Days	Dep.	Arr.	City	Days	Dep.	Arr.
123456-7	15:15	16:50	BUDAPEST (MA)	123456-7	12:55	14:30
---	10:40	13:35	COLOGNE (4U)	---	07:20	10:00
---	19:00	21:45	DUSSELDORF (DI)	---	15:30	18:15
---	18:15	21:00	DUSSELDORF (DI)	---	08:15	11:00
---	10:30	13:15	DUSSELDORF (DI)	---	15:15	18:00
---	18:00	20:45	DUSSELDORF (LT)	---	07:00	09:45
---	18:15	21:00	DUSSELDORF (LT)	---	07:30	10:15
---	18:00	20:45	DUSSELDORF (AG)	---	08:00	10:45
---	10:15	13:05	FRANKFURT (DI)	---	14:15	17:00
---	10:00	12:20	GENEVA (4R)	---	13:40	16:00
---	11:00	13:10	GENEVA (ED)	---	14:30	16:30
---	17:45	21:00	HAMBURG (DI)	---	06:15	09:30
---	09:15	12:15	HANOVER (DI)	---	14:40	17:30
1-3-5	15:20	17:45	ISTANBUL (TK)	1-3-5	13:40	14:20
1-3-5	16:45	19:15	LONDON (BA)	1-3-5	11:20	15:45
---	21:10	23:40	LONDON (BA)	---	15:45	20:10
1234567	15:45	17:25	LJUBLJANA (JP)	1234567	13:15	15:00
---	13:15	15:20	MUNICH (DI)	---	10:20	12:30
---	18:15	20:30	MUNICH (DI)	---	06:15	08:30
---	18:45	21:05	STUTT GART (DI)	---	07:25	09:45
---	10:45	13:05	STUTT GART (DI)	---	07:40	10:00
---	11:45	14:05	STUTT GART (DI)	---	15:10	17:30
---	10:45	13:05	STUTT GART (LT)	---	14:40	17:00
---	11:15	13:35	STUTT GART (LT)	---	14:55	17:15
---	11:30	13:50	STUTT GART (AG)	---	14:55	17:15
---	09:15	10:00	TIRANA (LV)	---	07:55	08:30
---	16:15	16:45	TIRANA (LV)	---	14:40	15:30
---	12:30	14:35	VERONA (6P)	---	09:40	11:45
---	14:30	16:30	VERONA (6P)	---	11:45	13:45
123-5-7	07:00	09:05	VIENNA (OS)*	12-4-67	19:45	21:45
1234567	16:40	18:45	VIENNA (OS)*	1234567	13:40	15:45
1-3-567	10:00	12:20	ZURICH (4R)	1-3-567	06:40	09:00
---	17:00	19:20	ZURICH (4R)			
1-5	10:50	13:10	ZURICH (ED)	1-5	07:40	10:00
---	11:00	13:20	ZURICH (ED)	---	07:50	10:10
---	11:25	13:45	ZURICH (ED)	---	08:15	10:35
---	11:55	14:15	ZURICH (ED)	---	08:45	11:05
---	17:15	19:35	ZURICH (ED)			
1	10:30	12:50	ZURICH (LX)	1	07:20	09:40
-2-4-7	09:20	11:40	ZURICH (LX)	-2-4-7	06:15	08:35
---	10:00	12:20	ZURICH (LX)	---	06:55	09:15
---	09:00	11:20	ZURICH (LX)	---	06:00	08:20
---	14:00	16:20	ZURICH (LX)	---	10:55	13:15

* From 1 Nov to 15 Dec no Tuesday and Friday morning flights.

Note: Schedule valid until the end of March 2007. Adria Airways, Austrian Airlines, British Airways, Malev and Turkish Airlines fly to Pristina with regular scheduled flights and can be relied upon to depart when they say so. Most other airlines use chartered planes, and departure times and days can change or be cancelled, so be sure to check in advance.

Airline codes: JP = Adria Airways, AG = Agaircom (Star XL German Airlines), LV = Albanian Airlines, OS = Austrian Airlines, BA = British Airways, 6P = Club Air, DI = DBA, ED = Edelweiss Air, 4U = Germanwings, 4R = Hamburg International Airlines, LT = LTU International Airways, MA = Malev, LX = Swiss, TK = Turkish Airlines.

within Kosovo you travel. The furthest you can currently go from Pristina is Leshak in zone 10, for €2.50. A railway **timetable** can be found online and if you're lucky maybe in printed form at the stations - ask for the *orari i trenave* brochure. Pristina effectively has two train stations. West of the centre at the end of Rruga Garibaldi, **Pristina train station** is nothing short of disappointing. The freshly painted exterior betrays an empty and dirty shell within. To get an idea, *In Your Pocket* dropped by for some information recently and the man who works there had gone

for coffee. There are no facilities at all, tickets must be bought on the trains, and there are no taxis waiting outside. Pristina's fabulous central train station serves two trains, one to Skopje via Fushë Kosovë, and the other terminating at **Fushë Kosovë train station**, seven kilometres west of the city centre. This station is Kosovo's railway hub and must have been fairly impressive in its day. Now it's an empty shell, with litter in the deserted ticket offices, abandoned cafés, large, blank, dusty departure boards and a rather beautiful Titovara statue outside. Get here by taxi (€7-10) or with the N°1 minibus (€0.40), which departs every 5-10 minutes from Bul. Bill Clinton (between Rr. R. Doli and Rr. P. Justinian). Fushë Kosovë has trains to and from Pristina, Gracanica, Lešak, Mitrovica and Skopje.

Kosovo Railways (Hekurudhat e Kosovës), www.kosovorailway.com. Timetables and price information (except the exact location of Pristina's main station which is top secret) can be found on the website. Note that there's a second, similar-looking site at www.unmikrailways.com that is decidedly less useful.

Taxis

The jury is out as to the trustworthiness of your average Pristina cabbie. Reports are mixed, with some claiming every taxi in the city is driven by a direct descendant of Mother Teresa herself, whilst others insist it's all a Serbian conspiracy, hell-bent on bringing the UN administration to its knees. First-hand experience was positive, with no attempts by any taxi drivers to hoodwink or otherwise rip us off. Starting at €1 for a journey inside the city centre during the day and €1.50 after 22:00, fares are ludicrously cheap, and, looking at the competition, taxis should be used at all times when distances exceed the amount you can walk. As in all major cities, always use marked taxis, make sure the meter is running before you set off, and if possible get someone to call one for you in advance. As English is not widely spoken and addresses can be vague to say the least, it's a good idea to have someone write your destination down in Albanian to show to the driver.

Prishtina, tel. 22 45 88/044 203 030.

Radio Taxi, tel. 22 00 11.

RGB, tel. 51 51 51/044 15 15 15.

Roberti, tel. 50 00 06/044 12 36 60.

Velania, tel. 22 53 25/044 22 53 25.

Victory, tel. 55 53 33/044 11 12 22.

VIP, tel. 50 04 44.

Driving & Car rental

Kosovo's main roads are in a good state and not too busy outside the towns, but stick to daytime driving unless you're experienced as unlit roads in combination with unreliable signposting and faulty headlights from oncomers can be fatal. Always be aware of dangerous macho driving, unexpected road users that may include children, chickens and massive UNMIK petrol tankers,

Train schedule

From Pristina station			To Pristina station			
Dep.	Arr.	No.	City	Dep.	Arr.	No.
06:24	06:35	IC891	FUSHË KOSOVË	05:58	06:08	IC4401
13:04	13:15	IC893	FUSHË KOSOVË	12:04	12:15	IC890
19:05	19:15	IC4107	FUSHË KOSOVË	18:38	18:49	IC892
06:24	09:01	IC891	SKOPJE*	09:38	12:15	IC890
13:04	15:38	IC893	SKOPJE*	16:13	18:49	IC892

From Fushë Kosovë station			To Fushë Kosovë station			
Dep.	Arr.	No.	City	Dep.	Arr.	No.
06:00	06:34	F4105	GRACANICA**	06:40	07:14	F4104
19:16	19:45	F4107	GRACANICA**	19:50	20:25	F4106
04:17	05:36	F4303	HAN I ELEZIT	05:53	07:32	F4100/4301
19:00	20:28	F4302/4103	HAN I ELEZIT	20:44	22:18	F4102
07:35	09:40	F4100/4301	LEŠAK***	09:55	11:59	F4300
14:15	16:20	F4303	LEŠAK***	16:50	18:54	F4302/4103
07:35	08:37	F4100/4301	MITROVICA	10:58	11:59	F4300
14:15	15:17	F4303	MITROVICA	17:53	18:54	F4302/4103
06:37	09:01	IC891	SKOPJE****	09:38	12:04	IC890
13:17	15:38	IC893	SKOPJE****	16:13	18:38	IC892

* Via Fushë Kosovë station

** Mon, Fri only

*** Trains from Fushë Kosovë connect with a service to Belgrade, arriving at 20:18 and 00:20

**** Originating/terminating at Pristina station

as well as for badly marked construction sites. If you're planning to drive into Kosovo with a rental car, check carefully if the company allows that first. In the centre of Pristina there's a parking scheme; pay 0.20-40 per hour to the attendant who then puts the trilingual ticket under your windscreen.

Dreni Rr. Kalabria, tel. 044 11 23 31/044 11 23 32.
Europcar Rr. Luan Hajredinaj 25, tel./fax +381 38 54 14 01, info@auto-shkodra.com, www.auto-shkodra.com.

► Also at Pristina airport (tel. +381 38 59 41 01) and the Grand Hotel (+381 38 22 21 22).

Hertz Rr. 22 Nentori, Qendra Tregtare, tel. 54 44 80/044 11 78 82, fax 54 44 90, hertz_b1@yahoo.com, www.hertz.com. Also at Pristina airport.



International Bus Schedule

From Pristina	Dep.	Arr.	Price
	11:00	17:00	BELGRADE €10
	22:35	04:35	BELGRADE €10
	23:00	05:00	BELGRADE €10
	24:00	06:00	BELGRADE €10
	10:00	22:00	ISTANBUL* €50
	11:00	23:00	ISTANBUL** €50
	12:00	24:00	ISTANBUL** €50
	07:30	21:30	LINZ** €70
	19:30	10:30	LINZ** €70
	07:30	20:30	GRAZ* €60
	07:00	22:00	HAMBURG*** €70-120
	05:30	07:00	SKOPIE €5
	06:30	08:00	SKOPIE €5
	07:50	09:20	SKOPIE €5
	08:05	09:35	SKOPIE €5
	10:30	12:00	SKOPIE €5
	14:30	16:00	SKOPIE €5
	17:00	07:00	TIRANA*) €25
	18:00	08:00	TIRANA*) €25

* Sundays
 ** Wednesdays
 *** Saturdays
 *) Via either Tetovo or Kukës

Public transport

Pristina is small and taxis are cheap, so you may never need to use public transport (*trafiku urban*) in the city. The large second-hand city buses lumbering around town are slow but do get there eventually. *Kombis*, small and usually very dirty minibuses that ply the city, may be more useful as they can be stopped anywhere, just wave your arm as a kombi approaches and yell stop when you want to get off. Tickets cost €0,30 and can be purchased on the buses; enthusiasts can buy a city bus month card for €10. A **useful bus line** is city bus N°4, which rattles from Sunny Hill (in the southeast of Pristina) via Bul. i Deshmorëve, Rr. Eqrem Qabej and Rr. Luan Haradinaj, through the centre to Germia park. On the return leg it cruises south along Bul. Nene Teresa. Kombi bus N°5 follows the same route north, but goes south via Rr. Luan Haradinaj as well. Kombi bus N°1 goes from the eastern end of Bul. Bill Clinton to the station at Fushë Kosovë for €0,40.

Long-distance buses

Buses in Kosovo run frequently, are reasonably fast, clean and good value. Pristina's bus station (Rr. Lidja e Pejës, tel. 54 01 42) is near the end of Bul. Bill Clinton at the edge of town, and serves all Kosovo and international destinations. To get there you'll need a taxi as there's no public transport from the centre. The bus station is a dismal affair inhabited somewhat ironically by people with nowhere to go. If there is a sign for something expect it to be in Albanian only, making doing anything other than buying a hamburger a task of Herculean proportions. Ask around and you should find somebody who speaks a little English. For left luggage go to the northern end of the building and look for the *shafi / ndrimit* sign. Supposedly open daily from 06:00 until 20:00 and charging €1/day regardless of how much luggage you have, the charming gentleman who runs the place chose to go on an excursion not long after we left our bags there. Note that if you choose to take a taxi to the bus station you may be asked to pay €1 to get into the car park - a barrage of obscenities is quite good at getting the gatekeeper to



change his mind and open his little barrier. Buses from Pristina to **PEJA** (€4) depart at 07:30, 08:00 and then every 20 minutes until 20:00, taking 1 hour 30 minutes. Buses to **GJAKOVA** (€4) depart every half hour between 08:00 and 20:00, taking 1 hour 30 minutes. Buses to **PRIZREN** (€3) depart at 06:50, 07:20, 08:00 and then every 30 minutes until 20:00, taking 1 hour 30 minutes. Buses to **MITROVICA** (€1.50) depart every 15 minutes between 06:30 and 20:00, taking 30 minutes to get there. Buses to **GJILAN** (tickets €1.50) via **GRACANICA** depart at 06:30, 07:20 and then every 20 minutes until 20:20, taking 30 minutes to get there. For international buses, see the timetable.

Travel agents

Altavia Travel A-2, Rr. Luan Haradinaj 27, tel. 54 35 43, fax 24 35 17, www.altaviatravel.com. ▶ Open 08:30 - 19:30, Sat 09:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun.

Euro Sky Travel A-2, Rr. Luan Haradinaj 18, tel. 24 18 41, fax 24 18 45, www.eurosky-travel.com. ▶ Open 09:00 - 19:00, Sat 10:00 - 15:00. Closed Sun.

Kosova Airlines A-3, Rr. Garibaldi, tel. 24 91 85, fax 24 91 86, info@kosovaairlines.com, www.flyksa.com. No own planes, but sells tickets in their office and (uniquely for Kosovo) online by credit card transfer. Agent for Hamburg International, LTU, DBA and Germanwings flights. Their office at the side of the Grand Hotel complex is worth popping into for the incredibly sleek plane interior look. ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00. Closed Sun.

Kosova Reisen Grand Hotel, tel. 24 11 11, fax 24 34 46, info@kosovareisen.net, www.kosovareisen.net. ▶ Open 08:30 - 19:30, Sat 08:30 - 18:30. Closed Sun.

MCM A-4, Rr. Lidhja e Pejës 12, tel. 24 24 24, inquiries@mcmtravel.com, www.mcmtravel.com. Ticketing for Austrian Airlines and other airlines. Near Bul. Bill Clinton. ▶ Open 09:00 - 20:00. Closed Sun.

Reisebüro Pristina Rr. Nëna Terezë 25a, tel. 52 30 06, fax 22 31 80, infopr@airpristina.com. ▶ Open 08:00 - 19:00, Sat 08:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun.

World Travel A-2, Rr. Luan Haradinaj 20, tel./fax 24 55 95, www.worldtravel-ks.com. ▶ Open 08:00 - 19:00, Sat 09:00 - 15:00. Closed Sun.



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në mbarë botën

Things have normalised in Kosovo, and now there are reliable postal and phone services again.

Post

The mail in Kosovo is run by the PTK (www.ptkonline.com). Their post offices handle mail, parcels, EMS parcel service, telephone calls to national and international numbers and handy tri-lingual complaints boxes. Sending a postcard or letter (under 20g) costs €0.20 within Kosovo, €0.50 to neighbouring countries, €0.50 to elsewhere in Europe and €1.20 outside Europe. Small packages of 0.5-1kg cost €1.40 within Kosovo, €3.30 to neighbouring countries, €6.60 within Europe and €8.40 elsewhere.

City Centre Post Office A-2, Rr. UCK 66. The most central post office. Ironically, a listed historical building which was of importance to the anti-fascist movement in the 1940s was just recently demolished illegally to make way for this ugly new high-rise. Have a think about that when you lick your stamps.

Main Post Office Rr. Bulevardi i Deshmorë, tel. 54 83 96. ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00. Closed Sun.

Express mail

DHL A/B-3, Bul. Nëne Tereza 29/b, tel. 24 55 45, fax 24 93 07, pleurat.hoti@dhl.com, www.dhl.com. Sending 1kg of documents London costs €40.82, to New York €48.38. ▶ Open 08:00 - 17:00, Sat 09:00 - 13:00. Closed Sun.

EMS Rr. Dardania, Main Post Office, tel. 966. PTK's express mail service. Fast same-day deliveries within Kosovo, and express mail abroad.

FedEx Eqrem Qabëj 164, tel. 54 43 45, fedexkosovo@koha.net, www.fedex.com. Sending 0.5kg of documents London costs €43, to New York €55. ▶ Open 08:30 - 17:30. Closed Sat, Sun.

TNT A/B-3, Sheshi Zahir Pajazit, Shtëpia e Mallërave, tel. 24 77 97, tntkosova@hotmail.com, www.tnt.com. Sending 0.5kg of documents London costs €37, to New York €44. ▶ Open 08:00 - 18:00, Sat 09:00 - 13:00. Closed Sun.



Pristina In Your Pocket

UPS B-3, Rr. Qamil Hoxha 12, tel. 24 22 22, fax 24 99 99, gencdushi@aldushi.com. Sending 0.5kg of documents to London costs €53.50, to New York €63.50. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Telephones

Kosovo's phone system is deliciously complicated, with one fixed-line provider, one official mobile network, one semi-legal network and a bunch of international ones in the countryside. The privatised PTK (Post and Telecommunications of Kosovo, www.ptkonline.com) are responsible for the **fixed-line telephones**. Pristina's overpriced and unreliable network is being converted into a fully digital service. To phone to a Pristina landline, dial +381 (Serbia and Montenegro's code) 38 (for Pristina) and the six-digit subscriber number. If you need a **fixed line installed at home or work**, get a local to do it for you, or click to Services - Telecom - FAQ on the website, fill in the form and take it to the main post office. Installation costs €99 plus VAT plus what PTK calls 'expenses for distances longer than 100m', which we assume is the distance from the main distribution box in your building, not their HQ. There's a 10% discount to subscribers who pay on the spot. There are plenty of **public telephones** scattered around town; all are card-operated, bright yellow and easy to spot. Phone cards come in values of €5, €10 and €15 and can be bought from the post offices. Instructions are written in English. Alternatively, you can pop into one of many internet cafés to make a **call over the internet**; note that local calls are not possible and quality varies. International rates are usually €0.20/minute to fixed-line telephones and €0.40/minute to mobile phones. Payment is made after you've finished the call. Everyone in Kosovo has a **mobile phone**, a fact that's not exactly reflected in the prices. PTK operates the UN-initiated local mobile phone network **Vala 900** (www.ptkonline.com, tel. 50 05 55), whose international code is that of Monaco - misdial a digit and you may get Princess Stephanie on the blower. To phone a Vala 900 number, dial +377 44 followed by the six digit subscriber's number. Serbia's **Telenor** network (www.telenor.co.yu) also covers most of Kosovo, and as it's illegal and cheaper than Vala 900, it is widely used. To phone a Telenor number, dial +381 62 or +381 63 followed by the six digit subscriber number. To add to the mobile confusion, as you drive around Kosovo you may notice from the 'Welcome to Germany' smses that **foreign operators** have their mobile networks active around a few military bases - effectively offering the cheapest roaming rates in Kosovo. If you're going to be spending a lot of time talking on a mobile phone you should consider getting a **local prepaid SIM card**. The set-up cost for a Vala900 SIM card is €15, which includes €10 of calling

Country codes

Albania	355	Greece	30	Portugal	351
Australia	61	Hungary	36	Romania	40
Austria	43	Ireland	353	Russia	7
Belarus	375	Israel	972	Serbia	381
Belgium	32	Italy	39	Slovakia	421
Bulgaria	359	Japan	81	Slovenia	386
Croatia	385	Latvia	371	Spain	34
Czech Rep.	420	Lithuania	370	Sweden	46
Denmark	45	Moldova	373	Switzerland	41
Estonia	372	Montenegro	381	Turkey	90
Finland	358	Netherlands	31	UK	44
France	33	Norway	47	Ukraine	380
Germany	49	Poland	48	USA	1

credit and a three-month activation period (after which you'll need to top up again regardless of how much calling credit you've got left). New SIM cards are for sale at the main post office. Top-up cards are for sale at post offices and kiosks and come in values of €5, €10, €20, €30, €40 and €50. Buying one from a street vendor usually costs €1 more. Tariffs are explained in all their confusing detail on the PTK website. Alternatively, do as many of the locals do and buy a Mobtel SIM card, which will work in most major towns and cities as well as in all Serb enclaves in Kosovo. Although technically illegal, Mobtel SIM cards (€12, including €7.50 of calling credit) and top-up cards can be bought from just about any street or cigarette vendor. Negotiations are underway for a second mobile operator in Kosovo, but like everything here the process has been dogged with scandal and controversy.

Intelcom B-2, Bul. Nëne Tereza. A private telephone office offering cheap calls around the world and selling calling cards that can be used from any phone. Find it in the basement on the corner next to the Illiria Hotel. ▶ Open 08:00 - 23:00, Sun 10:00 - 23:00.

Internet cafés

There's a slew of places to access internet in Pristina, though none of them have particularly fast connections or reliable electricity. Expect to pay €1 per hour and bring a candle.

CPWC B-3, Rr. Gazmend Zajmi 20, tel. 24 57 87. A fantastic initiative - the Centre for Protection of Women and Children (QMGF in Albanian) runs this internet café for the benefit of local women (no men!), offering internet access and computer courses. Foreign women are welcome to browse the web for free too. ▶ Open 08:00 - 18:00. Closed Sun.

El@net A-2, Rr. Rexhep Luci. Good, bright internet café with several terminals, printing and phones. ▶ Open 08:00 - 23:00.

Klubi i Studenteve B-3, Rr. Gazmend Zajmi, tel. 044 43 33 37, klubiistudenteve@hotmail.com. A large internet café run by friendly students, just up the street from the CPWC. Internet access for €0.50 per hour. ▶ Open 09:00 - 24:00.

Net A-3, Rr. Brigada. Internet and phones. In the corner of the courtyard opposite UNMIK, next to the Downtown bar. ▶ Open 09:00 - 23:00.

ISPs

There's expensive wi-fi in the Grand lobby; else, connect via the phone by dialling PTK's 48K internet number tel. 90 90 using **PTK** as your username and password.

Laptop login

Pristina's premium **wireless internet** service is offered by, surprise surprise, PTK (www.ptkonline.com). For a monthly fee of €30 you can get access to all sort of hot-spots throughout the country. However, more and more hotels, bars and cafés are providing free wireless facilities so your best bet is to check out where it's available and go there. If you haven't got the luxury of wireless internet or a cable LAN connection, then (assuming you've got a modem in your machine) PTK once again come to the rescue with their simple **DardaNet dialup internet service**. Using your dialup software of choice, call tel. 90 90 and enter ptk as both the username and password and away you go. The service is erratic, but better than nothing, and is charged at a reasonable €0.40/hour.

Language

Albanian is Kosovo's main language - though you'll find English and Serbian translations on all official signs in Kosovo. German and sometimes English is widely spoken by the many refugees who returned to Kosovo after a few years in western Europe. The names of cities in Kosovo as well as all other Albanian nouns have two different endings. One is definite (Pejë), the other indefinite (Peja, or 'the Peje'). Even when the names appear in English text, translators don't agree on which version to use. Add a dash of Serbian (Pec), and such ordinary pursuits as driving from a to b all of sudden become confusing to say the least. The word Kosovo incidentally is the English spelling. Locals use Kosova (and of course Kosovë).

Pronunciation

a as in father	ë as in term	nj as in union
c as in pizza	gj as in dodge	q as check
ç as in church	i as in machine	r as in rope
dh as in that	j as in year	rr is a trilled r
e as in set	ll as in still	x as in judge

Niceties & Necessities

Yes	Jo
No	Mirë
Good	Ju lutem
Please	Faleminderit
Thank you	Më vjen keq!
Sorry!	Mirëmëngjes
Good morning	Mirdita
Good day	ç'kemi
Hello	Natën e mirë
Good night	Punë e mbarë!
Good luck with your work!	Gëzuar!
Cheers!	Gjithë të mirat!
All the best!	Më falni!
Excuse me!	Si jeni?
How are you?	

Practicalities

When?	Kur?
Where?	Ku?
Who?	Kush?
Why?	Pse?
What?	Çfarë?
I have...	Kam...
I am...	Jam...
What's your name?	Si quheni?
My name is...	Quhem...
I'm from...	Une jam nga...
...UK	...Anglia
...USA	...Amerika
I don't understand	Nuk kuptoj
I don't speak Albanian	Nuk flas shqip
A ticket, please	Një biletë, ju lutem
How much does this cost?	Sa kushton?

Signs

Open	Hapur	Closed	Mbyllur
Entrance	Hyrje	Exit	Dalje
Push	Shtyj	Pull	Terheq

Numbers

0 - zero	5 - pesë	10 - dhjetë
1 - një	6 - gjashtë	20 - njëzet
2 - dy	7 - shtatë	50 - pesëdhjetë
3 - tre	8 - tetë	100 - njëqind
4 - kater	9 - nentë	1000 - njëmijë

With the exception of the huge supermarkets on the outskirts of the city, shopping in Pristina is not much fun. What few shops there are stock little in the way of choice and what they do stock tends to be of poor quality. Supplementing the stores, find makeshift stalls everywhere selling the usual array of sunglasses, cigarettes and books. A walk around the bazaar can be rewarding, with lots of small furniture shops, some of which make the goods that they sell. The bazaar also has a small modern market attached selling fake designer clothes, fruit and vegetables, pirate CDs and large walls of cigarettes.

Art

Artes B-3, Rrustem Statovci 24, tel. 044 22 22 86. A small gallery selling a range of quirky and often humorous paintings and sculptures by the local artist Enver Statovci. ▶ Opening times at the whim of the owner. Call in advance.

Basra Mekolli C-4, Rr. Dervish Rozhaja 33, tel. 044 17 31 27, basrimekolli@yahoo.com. Dali-style surrealist prints and paintings by a local artist, for sale from his home.

Galerija Nimani A-4, Rr. Mbreti Zogu I, tel. 044 18 91 86. A small art gallery run by the affable Mr. Skender Nimani, selling modern and abstract art by Kosovo artists. Paintings usually sell for anything between €70-1000. The gallery doubles as a bar - Mr. Nimani has a good stock of wines and liquors including Bushmills whiskey to serve to visitors. With the cranky heating he has in the shop, it's the only way to stay warm in winter. ▶ Open 15:00 - 23:00. Closed Mon.

Books & Press

In addition to the following, there are several bookstands outside the Grand Hotel that occasionally have English-language books. For English-language local news, the EU publishes the online *Kosovo Express* and the print *Focus Kosovo* magazines; both can be downloaded at www.euinkosovo.org.

Dukadjini Bookshop B-3, Bul. Nëne Tereza 20, tel. 24 81 43. Pristina's best bookshop has a small selection of English-language books, maps, some magazines (including *The Economist*), but no newspapers. ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00. Closed Sun.

Krenaria B-2, Rr. Svetozar Marko, tel. 063 855 07 08. For something else, this Islamic bookshop has Albanian-language books, tapes with religious music and interesting electronic toys to help learn children Arabic. Just up the street from the modern Hasan Beg mosque.

Monaco A-3, Rr. Luan Haradinaj (Pallati i Rinise shopping centre), tel. 22 74 90. This restaurant is the only place in town with a reliable supply of foreign newspapers and magazines - look for the rack outside on the terrace. Today's papers arrive around 18:00 every day except Sunday. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00, Sun 10:00 - 23:00.

CDs & DVDs

Note that most of those CDs and DVDs that are attractively priced at €2-4 are illegal copies. Customs officials abroad can impose stiff fines if you try to take them home, and you may also be unwittingly financing some dark organisation plotting to take over the planet. Ironically, the contraband is mainly sold to foreigners who are here to restore law and order. But until someone does something about it, it's a great way to expand your collection.

Closer A-3, Rr. Garibaldi 3, cabi_pr@hotmail.com. Run by a local DJ from Radio Blue Sky, this is a good pirated CD and DVD shop, with better prices than most, and plenty of choice. The owners can rustle up just about any CD you may be interested in, given a few days' notice. ▶ Open 10:00 - 23:00. Closed Sun.

DEA Productions A-4, Ilaz Kodra 4, tel. 044 23 28 58. Specialists in Albanian music of all types, find row upon row of CDs and DVDs of the works of people such as Sabriu and Adelina, plus a small selection of traditional Albanian instruments including a nice selection of hand-carved *lahutas*. ▶ Open 09:00 - 22:00. Closed Sun.

Ginger Embargo A-3, Rr. Pashko Vasa 2, tel. 044 12 63 05, contact@ginger-embargo.com. Opposite the Pirates restaurant, the knowledgeable owner of this highbrow CD and DVD shop sells pirated 'music and films that matter' in a crash-pad atmosphere (stove heating, shaggy dog, jazz playing). This is where to find classic films and music you don't see in the other shops, and a good place to get advice on local music and ask about gigs. Slightly more expensive than elsewhere. ▶ Open 11:00 - 21:00. Closed Sun.

Saba B-3, Rr. Gazmend Zajmi, tel. 044 11 37 30. A large DVD rental and shop near the Afa hotel; rent for €0.50 each or buy for €4. ▶ Open 11:00 - 23:00.

Flowers & Plants

Remember Me B-3, Qamil Hoxha 3/1, tel. 24 53 45. Delivers anywhere in Kosovo. ▶ Open 09:00 - 20:00. Closed Sun.

www.inyourpocket.com



Gifts & Souvenirs

Antika B-3, Rr. Agim Ramadani, tel. 044 20 96 89, arbantika@yahoo.com. One of the few gift shops in town; it sells Skenderbeg statues from €7, Indian products and other naf presents. Near the corner with Rruga Qamil Hoxha. ▶ Open 09:00 - 20:00. Closed Sun.

Grand Hotel kiosk A-3, Bul. Nëne Tereza. The glass cubicle at the entrance of the hotel sells postcards, traditional clothes and souvenirs, as well as some old foreign magazines. ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00, Sun 08:00 - 17:30.

Musical instruments

Pro Music A-4, Rr. Kroni I Bardhë 46, tel. 24 65 60, www.promusic-pr.com. A small shop packed with mostly electric instruments, plus lots of strings and other spare parts. ▶ Open 09:00 - 19:00, Sat 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Sun.

Office supplies

Talens B-2, Rr. Bajram Kelmendi 6, tel. 24 56 35. A good selection of stationery and office supplies plus a wide range of artists' materials. ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00. Closed Sun.

Photography

Foto Gagi A-3, Bul. Nëne Tereza 40, tel. 23 66 66. Excellent photographic services and supplies for all analogue and digital needs, plus English-speaking staff. ▶ Open 08:30 - 21:00. Closed Sun.

Speciality shops

Natyra Bregu I Diellit 5, tel. 044 20 86 28. Pronounced *natura* (and meaning nature), this lovely little shop with a pleasant, English-speaking owner is crammed full of good things such as huge sacks of beans, rice, nuts and spices. Also find fresh eggs, Brazilian coffee beans and some extremely delicious local honey. Up an alley behind the Steakhouse Saloon restaurant, east of the centre. ▶ Open 08:00 - 21:00, Sun 08:00 - 11:00.

Samsonite A-3, Rr. Luan Haradinaj (Pallati i Rinise shopping centre), tel. 044 16 46 47. Samsonite suitcases, bags and bag repairs. ▶ Open 09:00 - 20:00. Closed Sun.

Sports

Megasport B-2, Rr. Agim Ramadani 59, tel. 22 34 42, www.megasport.org. A good selection of equipment including exercise bikes, running machines, table tennis equipment, squash, badminton etc. ▶ Open 09:00 - 20:00, Sat 09:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun.

Salomon A-3, Bul. Nëne Tereza 40, tel. 24 44 65. Ultra-cool sports clothing for the fashion-conscious, plus roller blades in the summer and skis in the winter. ▶ Open 09:00 - 20:00. Closed Sun.

Super- & Hypermarkets

Most foreigners do their shopping at one of several large supermarkets or self-proclaimed hypermarkets along the road towards Fushe Kosovo and the airport.

Ardi A-3, Rr. Luan Haradinaj (Pallati i Rinise shopping centre). The best supermarket in the city centre, but no match for the large new ones along the Fushe Kosovo road. ▶ Open 08:00 - 22:00, Sun 10:00 - 17:00.



City Park Hypermarket Zona Industriale, Fushe Kosovo road, tel. 55 58 00. Set on two floors, Pristina's largest shopping complex houses the large Era supermarket, selling everything including some CDs and DVDs but excluding pork. Upstairs in the complex are several clothes shops, some of them selling cheap Chinese-made pirated clothing; there's a good selection of excellent copies of North Face winter coats, Versace and Gucci. Be warned - you may get fined if they catch you bringing these products into your home country. Near the entrance are an ATM and a dirty café called Erika which dishes out pizza and sandwiches. ▶ Open 08:00 - 22:00.

Dreni Market B-3, Rr. Zahir Pajaziti, tel. 044 25 74 01. Among a multitude of mediocre grocers, this one stands head and shoulders above the rest. As well as stocking a good range of convenience food Dreni Market also has a really great selection of fresh fruit and vegetables, as well as fresh ginger, coriander and some fine local bread. ▶ Open 07:00 - 23:00.

Maxi

Fushe Kosovo road. A dour first-generation supermarket, Maxi is housed what used to be the Norwegian army supermarket tent (PX). There's an ATM and nothing else special inside. ▶ Open 08:00 - 22:00.

Viva Fushe Kosovo road, tel. 54 28 44. A medium-sized standard supermarket behind a military compound. This one stocks foreign magazines. ▶ Open 08:00 - 22:00.

Business

Accountants

Deloitte & Touche Rr. Bedri Pejani 3, tel. 24 55 82, www.deloitte.com. ▶ Open 08:30 - 17:30, Sat 09:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun.

Banks

Bank for Private Business Rr. UCK 41, tel. 24 46 66, bbp-bank@bbp-bank.com, www.bbp-bank.com.
Banking & Payments Authority of Kosovo Galibardi 33, tel. 22 20 55, executiveasst@bpk-kos.org, www.bpk-kos.org.

Credit Bank of Pristina, tel. 38 249 851.
Economic Bank of Kosovo Migjeni 1, tel. 24 89 97, bek@ekonomike.com, www.ekonomike.com.
KasaBank A-2, Rr. Rexhep Luci 5, tel. 54 36 88, kasabank@kasabank.com, www.kasabank.com.
New Bank of Kosova A-3, Bul. Nëna Tereza 49, tel. 22 34 22, info@brk-bank.com, www.brk-bank.com.
ProCredit Bank Rr. Skenderbeu, tel. 24 96 24, info@procreditbank-kos.com, www.procreditbank-kos.com.
ProCredit has 9 Maestro/Mastercard compatible ATMs in Pristina, including at the Grand Hotel, Pallati i Rinise and the airport, plus ATMs in Prizren, Peja, Gjiilan, Gjakova, Mitrovica, Ferizaj. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00, Sat 09:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun.

Raiffeisen Bank Rr. UCK 51, tel. 22 64 00, info@raiffeisen-kosovo.com, www.raiffeisen-kosovo.com.
Raiffeisen has Visa/Electron-compatible ATMs in Pristina, Prizren, Peja, Gjiilan, Gjakova, Mitrovica and Ferizaj. ▶ Open 08:00 - 18:00, Sat 10:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun.

Business connections

Euro Info Center, www.kosovo-eicc.org.
Kosovo Business Support, www.usaidkbs.com.
Kosovo Chamber of Commerce Bul. Nëna Tereza 20, tel. 22 47 41, www.odaekonomike.org.
Riinvest Aktashi 1, tel. 24 93 20, www.riinvestinstitute.org. The Institute for Development Research.
Statistical Office (Enti Statistikor i Kosovës) Rr. Zenel Salihi 4, tel. 23 51 11, www.ks-gov.net/esk.

Lawyers

Ekrem Ismajli B-2, Rr. Fehmi Agani 9/1, tel. 22 79 24. ▶ Open 09:00 - 17:00. Closed Sun.
Fazli Balaj B-2, Rr. UCK 71/40, tel. 044 11 50 26. ▶ Open 08:00 - 17:00, Sat 08:00 - 15:00. Closed Sun.

Money transfer

The following companies do quick but pricey international money transfers.

MoneyGram Rr. Ahmet Krasniqi, tel. 22 13 11, www.moneygram.com. ▶ Open 09:00 - 17:00. Closed Sun.

Western Union Rr. Agim Ramadani 16/1, tel. 22 31 66, www.westernunion.com. ▶ Open 08:30 - 18:00, Sat 08:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun.

Real estate

Arianiti A-2, Rr. Rexhep Luci 15, tel. 24 59 05. Private and commercial property for sale and rent. ▶ Open 08:00 - 18:00. Closed Sun.

Eco Impex B-2, Rr. Fehmi Agani 9/1, tel. 22 91 59, ecoimpex@hotmail.com, www.ecoimpex-90.com. Property to rent, as well as apartments, houses and land for sale. ▶ Open 09:00 - 17:00. Closed Sun.

Translators & Interpreters

V&R Rr. Tirana 36, tel. 044 17 34 47. ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00. Closed Sun.

Health

Dentists

Drindent A-4, Bul. i Dëshmorëve 56/1, tel. 54 06 03. ▶ Open 10:00 - 14:30, 17:30 - 19:00. Closed Sat, Sun.
Eurodent B-3, Rr. Qamil Hoxha 12. ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:00, Sat 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Sun.
Petadent Rr. Ulpiana U3 III/B1, tel. 55 36 58. ▶ Open 09:00 - 21:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Hospitals & Clinics

Poliklinika Radiologjike Medico Rr. Lamella 11-10, tel. 044 16 72 99. ▶ Open 09:00 - 19:00, Sat 09:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun.
Rezonanca Rr. Bel Popova 1, tel. 24 38 01. ▶ Open 24hrs.

Opticians

Oculo Optika B-2, Rr. Agim Ramadani 52, tel. 22 16 21. ▶ Open 09:00 - 20:00, Sat 09:00 - 15:00. Closed Sun.
Simoni A-3, Bul. Nëna Tereza, tel. 22 59 89. ▶ Open 09:00 - 20:00, Sat 09:00 - 15:00. Closed Sun.

Officials

Foreign representations

Many countries have consulates or so-called *liaison offices* in Pristina. Their use to travellers in need of help is often quite limited, and you may have to go to your Belgrade or Skopje embassy. Losing your passport in Kosovo is a very bad idea - after going to the police, your liaison office can probably only help you with documents for travel into Macedonia to visit the Skopje embassy or with an Emergency Passport. For example, if you are British you can request a new passport, which takes 4-6 weeks to arrive, or get an emergency passport which is only valid for travel straight to the UK within a week. Best keep a close eye on your documents.

Albania Rr. Mujo Ulqinaku 18, tel. 24 83 68, misioni_shqiprise@hotmail.com.
Austria Rr. Arberia 1, tel. 24 92 84.
Belgium Rr. Taslixhe 1, tel. 51 76 98, office@bdb-pristina.org.
Bulgaria Rr. Ismail Qemali 12, tel. 24 55 40.
Croatia A-2, Rr. Fehmi Agani 69b-1a, tel. 24 33 99, pkosovo@hgk.hr.
Finland Rr. Eduard Lir 50, tel. 24 30 98.
France Rr. Ismail Qemajli 67, tel. 24 96 12.
Germany Rr. Adem Jashanica 17, tel. 25 45 00, info@pris.auswaertiges-amt.de.
Greece Rr. Ismail Qemajli, tel. 24 73 70.
Italy Rr. Azem Jashanica 5, tel. 24 49 25, pubblico.pristina@esteri.it.
Japan A-3, Bul. Nëna Tereza, Rr. Grand Hotel room 343, tel. 24 99 95.
Luxemburg Rr. Metush Krasniqi 14, tel. 22 67 87.
Malaysia A-3, Rr. Mujo Ulqinaku 12, tel. 24 34 67, mwprishtina@mwprishtina.org.
Netherlands Ekrem Rexha 17, tel. 22 46 10, nl_kosovo@yahoo.com.
Romania Rr. Azem Jashanica 25, tel. 24 26 72, office@romania-office.ipko.org.
Russia Rr. Eduard Lir 20, tel. 24 71 12, ruschanemb@kujtesa.com.
Saudi Arabia A-4, Rr. Bill Clinton pn, tel. 54 92 03, sjrckos@yahoo.com.
Slovenia A-3, Bul. Nëna Tereza 20, tel. 24 62 55.
Sweden Ekrem Rexha 6, tel. 24 57 95.
Switzerland Rr. Adrian Krasniqi 11, tel. 24 80 88.
Turkey Rr. Nik Prela 22, tel. 54 85 57, tco_pristina@yahoo.com.
UK Rr. Ismail Qemali 6, tel. 24 95 59, britishoffice.pristina@fco.gov.uk.
USA Rr. Nazim Hikmet, tel. 54 95 16, <http://pristina.usmission.gov>.

International organisations

Council of Europe Kragujevci 8, UNHCR Building, tel. 24 37 49, www.coe.int.
DTI Green Building, Vellusha, tel. 50 04 00, fax 54 80 76, dti_kosovo@hotmail.com, www.kosovo-dti.org.
EBRD Rr. Luan Haradinaj, BPK Building, tel. 54 81 53, fax 54 81 52, www.ebrd.com.
EU B-2, Rr. Peyton 12, tel. 25 35 12, www.euikosovo.org.
European Union Monitoring Mission, www.ue.eu.int/pesc/ecmm.
IMF, www.imf.org.
Stability Pact, www.stabilitypact.org.

Local government

Nicely known as the *Provisional Institutions of Self-Government*.

Assembly of Kosovo, www.assembly-kosova.org.
Prime Minister's Office, www.pm-ks.gov.net.

Ministries

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Rural Development Bul. Nëna Tereza 35, tel. 21 13 74, www.mafnd-ks.org.
Ministry of Education, Science & Technology Bul. Nëna Tereza, tel. 21 19 31, fax 21 15 69, masht@masht.gov.net, www.mashtgov.net.
Ministry of Environment & Spatial Planning Rr. Lazim Gafuraj 31, tel. 51 78 01, info@mmph.org, www.mmph.org.
Ministry of Finance & Economy Bul. Bill Clinton, tel. 54 05 64, info@mfe-ks.org, www.mfe-ks.org.
Ministry of Labour & Social Welfare, tel. 50 46 04, fax 24 42 29, www.ks-gov.net/mpms.
Ministry of Mining and Energy Rr. Sejdi Kryeziu 5, tel. 20 02 13 02, www.ks-gov.net/mem.
Ministry of Public Services, www.ks-gov.net/mshf.
Ministry of Returns and Communities, www.ks-gov.net/mkm.
Ministry of Trade & Industry Rr. Agim Ramadani, tel. 50 46 04, fax 21 19 85, www.mti-ks.org.
Ministry of Transport & Communication, tel. 50 46 04, www.mtpt.org.

1€ = £ 0.67 = \$1.25
16-10-2006

Municipality

Town Hall B-2, Treçca 2, tel. 23 09 00. Pristina's mayor is Mr. Ismet Beqiri.

NGOs

Albanian Catholic Church Rr. Karposh 41, tel. 54 98 61, noshgjolaj@yahoo.com.

Balkan Sunflowers Rr. Luan Haradinaj, Pallati i Rinise, hall 114, tel./fax 24 62 99, www.balkansunflowers.org.

CARE International Rr. Methodisa 5, tel. 22 24 35, fax 22 57 66, carekosovo@care.org, www.care.org.

CEPS, www.ceps.be. The Centre for European Policy Studies' South East Europe information centre.

DFID Rr. Ekrem Rexha 8, tel. 54 97 24.

East West Institute, www.iewis.cz/fryft/index2.php.

European Stability Initiative, www.esiweb.org.

HANDIKOS Rr. Dardania 4/7, tel. 54 83 27.

ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross), www.icrc.org.

International Crisis Group Rr. Fehmi Agani 36, 1/1, tel. 24 35 61, www.crisisweb.org.

IOM Rr. Ismail Qemali 18, tel. 54 90 42, www.iom.org. International Organisation for Migration

Islamic Community Council Rr. Nazim Gafuri, tel. 24 93 34.

IWPR, www.iwpr.net/index.pl?home_index.html. Institute for War and Peace Reporting.

KFOS (Kosovo Foundation for Open Society) Rr. Aktashi II 38, tel. 54 91 17.

KIDS (Kosovo Initiative for Democratic Society) Rr. Sulejman Vokshi 2/2, tel. 32 46 50.

KIPRED (Kosovar Institute for Policy Research & Development) Rr. Kodra e Diellit 3, tel. 55 58 87.

KSI (Kosovar Stability Initiative) Ulpiana D6 Hy3 2, tel. 54 06 86, www.iksweb.org.

NDI Rr. Peja 26, tel. 22 65 83.

Ombudsperson B-4, Rr. Agim Ramadani, tel. 50 14 01, www.ombudspersonkosovo.org. Protecting consumer rights.

Regional Environmental Centre Rr. Kodra e Diellit 3, tel./fax 55 21 23.

Save the Children Rr. Nazim Hikmet 4, tel. 24 30 38, fax 54 30 40, www.savethechildren.net.

USAID Rr. Ismail Qemali 1, tel. 24 36 73, fax 24 94 93, kosovousaidinfo@usaid.gov, www.usaid.gov/missions/kosovo.

Public Utilities

For when the light goes off or the water turns brown.

BATLLAVA, tel. 38 541 211. Water utility.

Higjeno Teknika, tel. 38 554 143. Waste utility.

KEK (Kosovo Electric company), tel. 38 227 842, www.kek-energy.com. The service you'll love to hate.

TERMOKOSI, tel. 38 543 210. The heating utility. Ring these chaps when you're not so warm and kosi.

UN & Friends

Banking and Payments Authority, www.bpk-kos.org.

FAO, www.fao.org. Food and Agriculture organization of the United Nations.

KFOR (Kosovo Force), www.nato.int/kfor/welcome.html. The NATO-led international force responsible for establishing and maintaining security in Kosovo.

Kosovo Trust Agency, www.kta-kosovo.org.

OSCE (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe) Rr. Tirana 32, tel. 50 01 62, press.omik@osce.org, www.osce.org/kosovo.

UNHCR Rr. Kragujevci 8, www.unhcr.org.

UNICEF, www.unicef.org.

UNMIK (United Nations Mission in Kosovo) Shop 1, tel. 50 46 04, focuskosovo@un.org, www.unmikonline.org.

WHO, www.who.int. World Health Organisation

World Bank Rr. Tirana 35, tel. 24 94 59, fax 54 97 80, missions@worldbank.org, www.worldbank.org.

Useful addresses

Cleaning

Pio Rr. Dardania SU1/5 32, tel. 55 82 13/044 17 34 47, pio-malazogu@hotmail.com. Cleaning of offices, houses and apartments, window and carpet cleaning, junk removal, and more. ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00. Closed Sun.

Dry cleaners

Aldushi Rr. Agim Ramadani 17, tel. 24 22 22. ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00. Closed Sun.

Education

American University in Kosovo, www.aukf.org.

University of Prishtina, www.uni-pr.edu.

1€ = £ 0.67 = \$1.25
16-10-2006



Exchange offices

Pristina's de facto currency exchange is easily recognised by the large swarm of black-market touts outside the exchange offices on Rruga Ilir Konusheci. The men outside will ask you if you want to exchange money and you're unlikely to be ripped off, but basically will get the same rate plus a receipts from the official shops. With so many ATMs in town there's no real need to use either service.

EuroEki B-1, Rr. Ilir Konusheci 4, tel. 044 16 39 00.

▶ Open 09:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun.

NBS B-1, Rr. E. Vushtrise 2, tel. 044 60 05 90. ▶ Open 09:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun.

Generators

Komtel, tel. 22 45 45. When Pristina plunges into darkness and you have a business to run, you better have a generator and a can of petrol handy. Komtel sells high-capacity generators.

Graphic design

Albhouse Rr. Ulpiana A6/2, 7, tel. 044 23 78 76, albhouse@gmail.com. Graphic design, photography and printing services. ▶ Open 09:00 - 20:00. Closed Sun.

Hairdressers

Face B-2, Bul. Nene Tereza. Small men's hairdresser in the block housing DHL. Haircuts for €2.50. ▶ Open 09:00 - 21:00. Closed Sun.

Key cut

Celsa key cut A-2, Rr. Rexhep Luci, tel. 35 83 09. Key duplications for €1 and photocopying in a basement shop on the corner of the street. ▶ Open 09:00 - 20:00. Closed Sun.

Homa B-2, Dringa Ismael bb, tel. 044 34 47 86. Tucked away on a side street and down a small flight of steps these guys cut keys, sell locks, and best of all can get you into your apartment if you lock yourself out. ▶ Open 09:00 - 20:00. Closed Sun.

Kids

Kinder Land Shefqet Shfupi 78, tel. 54 05 89. Highly recommended by several expats with families, Kinder Land is a huge building with lots of bouncy castles, fun things for kids to do and a cute little bar for devouring sugary treats and soft drinks. Find it on the outskirts on the city, on the right side of the road going towards Skopje. ▶ Open 12:00 - 21:00.

Libraries

Municipality Library Hivzi Sylejmani UCK 10, tel. 23 29 80.

▶ Open 08:00 - 19:00, Sat 08:00 - 15:30. Closed Sun.

National & University Library of Kosova Sheshi Hasan pn, tel. 24 96 50, www.biblioteka-ks.org. ▶ Open 07:00 - 21:00, Sat 07:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun.

Massage

Note that the Chinese Restaurant (see *Where to Eat*) can also perform massages - when they're not cooking.

Thai Madam Massage B-2, Rr. Andrea Gropa, tel. 044 25 89 13.

Six Thai Madams marooned in Kosovo perform massages on weary expats. Traditional Thai massages cost €20 per hour; foot massage €25 per hour. Swedish and ayurvedic massages, herbal treatments and manicure/pedicure also available. Near the corner of Rruga UCK, above the Fona butcher. ▶ Open 10:00 - 24:00.

Media

Kosovalive, www.kosovalive.com.

Radio 21, www.radio21.net.

RTK, www.rtklive.com.

Pharmacies

Most pharmacies (*barnotore*) in Pristina and the rest of Kosovo are run by the state (or rather the UN), and for reasons that remain a mystery, UN-run pharmacies are open for not particularly long periods of time. We gave up looking for a 24hr pharmacy, having been told there was one called Viva near the main PTK building and having never found it. Bring all your basic medical supplies with you, and use a Western (private) medical service.

AD Pharma Rr. Dëshmorëve e Kombit 64, tel. 55 06 98. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00.

Leka Med Rr. Ilir Konusheci. ▶ Open 08:00 - 23:00.

Valeriana Rr. Luan Haradinaj.



All the street names below refer to the Pristina city centre map and are prefixed with Rruga (Rr) except for the park/square called Sheshi Hasan Prishtina, and the boulevards: Nënë Tereza, Bill Clinton and Bul. i Deshmorëve.

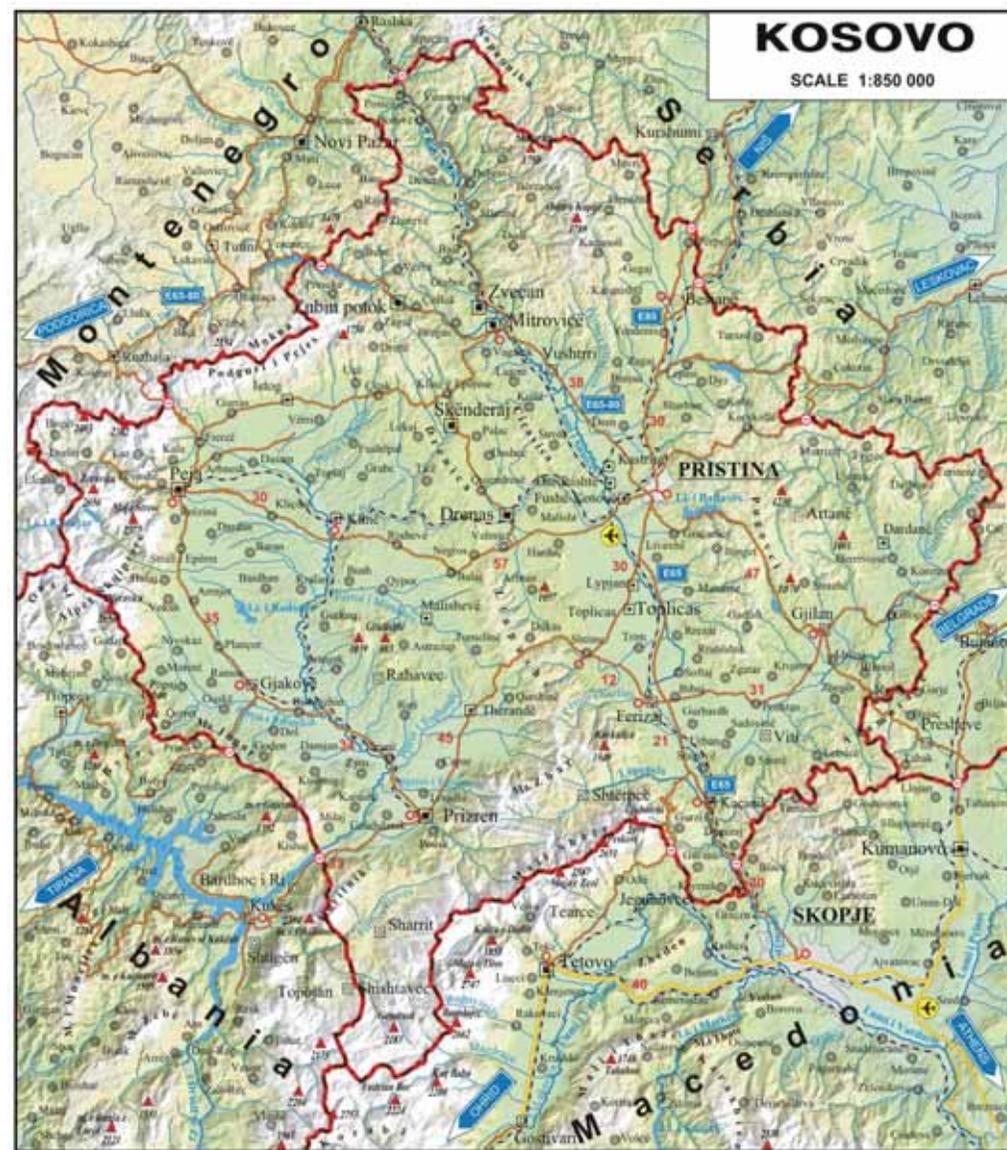
1 Tetori	C-3
2 Korriku	B-3
24 Maji	A-1
Abdy Frashëri	B-3/4
Adem Gashi	C-1
Adem Glavica	B-1
Afrim Loxha	C-1/2
Afrim Vitija	B-2/3
Afrim Zhitija	B-4
Agim Ramadani	B-2/3/4
Ahmet Ka.	C-1
Ali Hadri	C-2
Ali Kelmendi	C-3/4
Ali Përpelena	B-3
Andrea Gropa	B-2
Antigona Fazliu	B/C-1
Anton Ceta	B-3/4
Ardian Krasniqi	B/C-3
Arktekt Kadri Gega	B-3
Armend Daci	C-4
Asim Luzha	C-3
Avni Rrustemi	C-1
Azem Bab.	C-1
Azem Bejta	C-1
Bajram Curri	A-2
Bajram Kelmendi	B-2
Bajram Bahtiri	A-1/2,B-1
Bedi P.	B-2

Bulevardi Bill Clinton	A-4
Bulevardi Nënë Tereza	A-3,B-2/3
Bulevardi i Deshmorëve	A-4
Butrinti	C-1
Cajupi	B-2
Dervish Rozhaja	C-4
Dimitrije T.	B-3
Eduard Lir	A-1
Emin Duraku	B-2
Enver Berisha	C-1
Eqrem Qabeja	C-2
Edmond Hoxha	C-2
Esad Mekuli	B-1
Fan S. Noli	C-1
Fazli Grajevci	A/B-2
Fehmi Agani	A/B-2
Ferit Dragaj	C-4
Feriz Bl.	A-1/2
Florim Y.	B-3/4
Ganimete Tërbeshi	B-4,C-3/4
Garibaldi	A-3
Gaspër Gjini	B-1
Gazmend Zajmi	B-3,C-3/4
Gjergj Fishta	B-1
Gjin Gazulli	C-4
Gustav Majer	B-3
Hafez A. Korca	C-1
Hajdar Dushi	A/B-2
Hajrulla Abdullahu	C-4
Haki Pava	C-1
Haki Tahaj	C-1
Hakif Zejnullahu	B-4
Hali Alidemaj	B-3
Hamdi Mram.	B-2

Hamzë Jashari	B-2/3
Haqif Tetova	B-1
Haxhi Zeka	B-1/2,C-1
Henrik Baric	B-1/2
Henry Dynan	A/B-4
Hië Mosi	C-1/2
Hilmi Rakovica	C-4
Hoxhë H.Tahsini	C-1/2
Hoxhë K.	B/C-1
Hysni Curri	C-2
Ibrahim B.	C-2
Ibrahim L.	B-2
Idriz A.	C-1
Idriz Gjilani	A-4
Ilaz Kodra	A-4
Ilir Konusheci	B-1/2
Ilaz Agushi	B-1
Ingridi Cara	C-1
Isa Boletini	C-2
Jeronim De Rada	C-1
Jonuz Zejnullahu	A-3
Josip Relja	A-2
Kacaniku	C-3
Kadri D.	B-1
Kajtaz Ramadani	A-2
Korca	C-1
Krasni.	B-2
Lasgush P.	A-2
Latif Berish.	B-3
Lidhja e Lezhes	A-1
Lidhja e Prizrenit	A-1/2
Lord Bajroni	C-3/4
Luan Haradinaj	A-2/3
Maliq P.Gjinolli	B-1
Mark Isak	A/B-2
Mbreti Zogu I	A-3/4

Mbreti Bardhyl	B-1
Mehmet A.V.	A-1
Mehmet FD.	A-1
Meto Bajraktari	B-2
Migjeni	A-2
Mihail Grameno	C-1
Mirko Gashi	B-1
Mithat Frashëri	A-1
Mitrovica	B-3/4
Mujë Krasniqi	B-4
Mujo Ulqinaku	A-3
Murat Mehmeti	A-1
Musine Kokolari	A-4
Mustafë Hoxha	C-2
Mustafa Kruja	B/C-2
Nak Berisha	B-3
Nazim Gafurri	C-1/2
Nikolla Tesla	C-1
Pashko Vasa	A-3
Per, Dioklecian	A-2
Perandori Justinian	A-3/4
Pjetër Bogdani	A-1
Prishtina	C-1
Qamil Bala	C-4
Qamil Hoxha	B-3
Radovan Z.	A-3
Rasim Kicina	C-1
Rexhep Luci	A/B-2
Rexhep Mala	B-3/4
Rifat Burxheviq	C-4
Robert Doll	A-3/4
Rrustem Statovci	B/C-3
Rrustem Hyseni	B/C-2
Sali Butka	C-1
Sali Mani	C-1
Sami Peja	B-3

Selman R.	C-2
Sejdi Kryeziu	A-3
Selami Pulaha	A-4
Sokol Dobr.	A-2
Sokol Sopi	C-3
Svetozar Markovic	B-2
Sylejman Vokshi	B-3
Taip K.	B-2
Thimi Mitko	C-4
Tirana	A-2
UCK	A/B-2
Vasil Andoni	B-2
Vushtrria	A/B-1
Xhafer Deva	A-1
Xheladin Kurbaliu	C-1
Xhelad Mitrovica	C-2/3
Xhemë Gostivari	C-2/3
Xhemajl Mustafa	A-4
Xhemajl Prishtina	B-1/2
Yfete Humolli	B-2
Ymer Alushani	A-4
Ymer Berisha	C-2
Zagrebi	A-1/2
Zeki Shulem.	B-2
Zejnel Salihu	B/C-2
Zija Prishtina	B-1
Shaban Polluzha	B-2
Shqip Spah.	C-3
Shefqet K.	C-2/3
Shefqet Zeka	B-1
Sheshi Hasan Prishtina	B-3
Shkodra	C-1



Academy building	23	Contra	19	Kosovo Heroes Monument	27	Queen's Shilling	21
Afa	11	Cube	22	Kosovo Museum	23	Rings 1	19
Agape	19	Depot	22	Legere	21	Rings 2	16
Amaro	14	Dilan	19	Lounge 19	21	Rio 2	18
Anija Pirates	15	Dion	11	Luxor	12	Route 66	14
Apartment 195	20	Edi-1	15	Lyon	12	Saloon Steakhouse	18
Aroma	14	Elda	19	Maximum Burger	14	Samurai	17
Arte	16	Escargot	15	Metro Café	14	Sara	13
Avenue Bar	20	Ethnological Museum	23	Mexicana	17	Skenderbeu statue	27
Aviano	13	Fatih Mosque	24	Mollëkuqja	21	Spaghetteria Tony	17
Baci	11	Fitimi	13	Monument of Brotherhood and		St. Nicholas Church	27
Ballantine's	15	Gërnia Park	27	Unity	24	Strip Depot	21
Bamboo	20	Grand	11	Morena	21	Sultan Murad's Tomb	27
Baraka	20	Great Hamam	24	Mother Teresa statue	27	Syri i Kalter	19
Bazaar	23	Hani i 2 Robertëve	15	Mozart	19	Talia	16
Begolli	12	Holiday Pizza	17	MYC	21	Thai	18
Bombay	14	Home	16	National Library	26	The Room	16
Bosna 2	16	Home Disco	22	National Martyr's Monument	26	Tiffany's	17
Bosna 4	16	Hostel Eleven	13	Pallati i Rinisë	26	Tricky Dick's	21
Buzz	15	ICE	19	Panevino's	17	Ulpiana	27
Café e Vogel	19	Iliria	12	Parcae	16	Union Hotel building	27
Calabria	15	In Joy Café	19	Park	12	Velania Guesthouse	13
Carshi Mosque	23	INMK building	24	Parku i Qytetit	27	Verona	16
Centrum	14	Internet Disco	22	Pejton	12	Victory	11
Chinese Restaurant	14	Irish Pub	22	Phoenix	21	Vullkano	17
Christ the Saviour Cathedral	24	Istanbul	18	Photos of the missing	27	Xhema	13
Cinema Café	19	Jashar Pasha Mosque	24	Pinocchio	17	XIX	17
City Pub	20	Jewish Cemetery	27	Pishat	16	XL	22
Clock Tower	24	Kaqa	21	Prestige	19	Zahir Pajaziti statue	27
Club 212	15	King Casino	22	Prishtina	12	Zanzibar	22
CM	20	Kosova Art Gallery	23	Publicco	21	Zulu Bar	21



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