

PRIZREN

Prizren, as a settlement, dates since the ancient times. In the era of Roman dominion it was marked as an urban settlement, Theranda.

During the period of Byzantine dominance it was referred as Prizdrijana; while in the period of Nemanjic dynasty it was known as Prizren. Throughout the Ottoman rule the town was avowed as Zerrin and later as Purzerin. The natives call it Përzerend!



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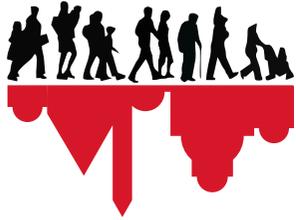
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HISTORIC WALK

1. 'Shatërvan' – is the name of the city centre. The name itself derives from the Persian meaning “fountain with lots of streams.” Everyday economic, cultural and political life revolves around it. The square interlaces oriental and western cultures of architectural composition.

2. Old Stone Bridge (Ura e Gurit) – as the landmark of Prizren was built in the first half of 16th century. It laces the two shores of Bushtrrica River. The bridge upholds oriental style of construction. In 1979 heavy floods washed it away. The bridge has seen its reincarnation in 1982.

3. Sofi Sinan Pasha Vila Mosque – was built in 1615 by Sofi Sinan Pasha, the child levied from Vila village of Luma region. After the education he gains the title Sofi – the wise, the prudent. He serves in the Ottoman army. He was the Sultan's son-in-law. His mosque is the most prominent edifice in Kosovo. By the size and the wall paintings it is of a unique architectural and historical significance.

4. Arasta Bridge/KFOR Bridge – from 18th century. It was part of Bezistan, a roofed market place. On both sides of the river there were craft shops. Roofed market place started from Sinan Pasha Mosque up to Gazi Mehmet Pasha's Hamam. This reveals the importance and the development of the town in 18th century, the size and the wall paintings it is of a unique architectural and historical significance.

5. Gani Tada's Bridge – was originally a groove delivering water to Mehmet Pasha Ensemble. Nearby used to live Gani Dukagjini – the last town crier. Given that he frequently used this bridge, people call it Gani tada's Bridge.

6. Marash neighbourhood – is one of the most beautiful quarters of the city. It retains entire elements required in making a neighbourhood: six springs, two mills, the bridge, the mosque, the tekke, the mausoleum, the brook and very characteristic houses, some of which stand in our days. The rarity of this quarter is the centuries-long platanus from the roots of which fresh water constantly emanates. Orthodox residents of the city throw the cross on the water beneath this platanus during a spiritual holiday. Neighbourhood is named by the Persian word meaning 'place of breeze'.

7. Mehmet Pasha's Ensemble – He is the most notable person of the second part of 16th century. According to the data he was levied in Leshan village and after the military school he got in the position of commander-in-chief of the Ottoman army. Besides a mosque and a hamam he built in his birth village, he is known for constructing the largest ensemble ever in Prizren, that includes: Gazi Mehmet Pasha's Mosque (Bajrakli Xhamia or Flag Mosque) that will gain the role of the central mosque of the city, in the courtyard of which he constructed his own mausoleum; Madrasah (college) – that would educate youth of Prizren and wider. During the second stage of the national movement it will be the seat of the Albanian government and all efforts to establish the Albanian state will develop therein. Hamam is one of the largest buildings in the lands of Kosova. Mehmet Pasha for his fellow residents fulfilled three basic requirements of life: clean body (Hamam – public bath); erudite mind (Madrasah) and enlightened spirit (Mosque).

8. Emin Pasha's Mosque – at the beginning of 19th century Prizren saw the resurrection of the powerful Rrotlla family. Its most important progeny was Emin Pasha. He constructed a remarkable mosque and decorated with wall paintings, then a madrasah; while many public buildings were repaired by him and his brethren. They built a family mansion, a hamam and the building of the first Post Office in Prizren.

9. Kukli Mehmet Bey's Ensemble – In the first half of 16th century Prizren witnessed the raise of Kukaj family from Zinova of Opoja region. Amongst nine sons of Hajredin Ilaz Kuka, Mehmet stands out and who will dominate entire Balkans, from Thessaloniki up to Bosnia. The Saraçhane Mosque and Halveti Tekke are amongst of his philanthropic endowments.

10. Musa Shehzade House – It was built by the gjakovan-prizrenites descendants during the 19th century. This is one of the most beautiful vernacular dwelling houses of Prizren. It dazes with its comfort and beauty.

11. Archaeological Museum, Clock tower – The museum is located adjacent to Ahmed Shemsudin Bej hamam which has served the town's upper classes. Archaeological items found in the city and its surrounding exhibited there reveal the distant past of this area. Close to the hamam features Prizren's Clock tower (Sahatkulla).

12. St. Friday's Church – is one of the oldest building and holding the richest past in the city and Kosova. It represents a pagan Illyrian-Dardanian temple over which a Roman Catholic basilica was built. In 810 a Byzantine basilica was erected on the remains of this Roman chapel and remodeled and expanded in 1306-1307 by King Milutin as Nemanjic Orthodox Cathedral. In 1455 Sultan Mehmet the Conqueror converted it to a mosque. In 1912, after the Serbian invasion of these lands, it was turned

back into a Serbian Orthodox Church. After 1945 became a museum. With the change of rulers it also had its name changed to: Saint Friday, Levisha, Fet-hije, Juma Mosque (Xhuma Xhamia, Cuma Camii), Bogorodica Ljeviska (Church of our Lady of Ljevis).

13. The cemetery near the Ambulance building – a beautiful tale – the residents of the city and the surrounding narrate that the city was conquered by the Ottoman army from the plateau. The forefront was led by Tezgere baba, the left flank by Dallgam Baba and the right flank by Karabash Baba. During the combat the three commanders were killed. People keep the memory on them by visiting the place of their burial.

14. Namazgah/Kërëk Mosque (Kërëk Xhamia, Namazxhahu) – near the settlements besieged for conquer the Ottoman command used to construct field mosques (open air praying terraces) or namazgahs, and later on near places the trade fairs were organized. This is Prizren's namazgah or Kërëk Mosque.

15. Syziu's Ensemble – Among the first philanthropic givers in the city of Prizren is Syzi Baba, a man who, at the onset of the 16th century, built a very large ensemble consisting of: a mosque, a library (1506), a tekke, mektub, a great bridge, a small bridge and the Tazi, for the irrigation of arable lands of Prizren plateau. His mausoleum is found in the mosque's courtyard.

16. Beledije (Belediye) – Built at the end of 19th century it represents the first building of the Municipality of Prizren. People of Prizren call the bridge standing besides it as the Beledije Bridge.

17. Bimbashi's Spring – A senior officer of the Ottoman Empire lived there. He constructed a lovely source for the locals.

18. Cathedral of Catholic Church (Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour/Katedralja e Zonjës Ndihmëtare) – This church has played the central role of the Roman Catholic Church in the Central Balkans. It was built in 1871 on the foundations of an age-old church. It was dedicated the Holy Virgin.

19. Shuaip Pasha's House – was the house of Shuaip Pasha, the Minister of Finance in the first Albanian Government. Thus, it was the head office of the Ministry of Finance.

20. Naletit Bridge (Bridge of the Cursed) – below the stone bridge was a wooden runway through which river water ran to the other side of the town. A wooden plank was placed next to it so the people could pass. Since always washed by the water, during the winter days it would get icy, so the passers would often fell to the river. The locals named it Naleti Bridge.