



GENERAL INFORMATION BOOKLET

*The First International Staff Week in Kosovo Organized by
Universum College*

Prishtina, 2019

Welcome to Kosovo

We are excited to see you in Prishtina...

The capital city, Prishtina, is the largest city in Kosovo with over 400.000 inhabitants, making it the administrative center. The majority of the population is ethnic Albanian but you may also meet minorities which comprise of Turk, Serb, and Roman ethnicity. Prishtina is a very dynamic city and coming to Prishtina will be an experience of a lifetime where you may find an interesting combination of traditional and modern culture.

Adem Jashari International Airport of Prishtina (PRN) has been recently renovated, and is modern and fully equipped with all the amenities expected from a coherent airport. The airport is small and visitors can be guided easily through it. Airport is located in the outskirts of Prishtina approximately 17 km from the city center.

NOTE!

There is no general travel restriction or visa requirement to EU country residents to visit Kosovo. However, specific policies for the duration of stay may apply! Please consult your state authorities for general travel advisories.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LAND TRANSPORTATION

Kosovo is located at the center of the Balkan Peninsula. Apart from international flights there are frequent and affordable, bus rides to all the neighboring countries and beyond. Inter-city bus rides are very frequent and they run from early morning until late night. The buses to other cities and towns leave from the main bus station in Prishtina (10 minutes walking distance from city center.)

Visit: <https://gjirafa.com/Autobus>, to check the inner-city and cross-country bus schedules, prices and places of departure.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT GSM AND INTERNET PROVIDERS

WIFI- will be widely available and accessible for free in your accommodation places and at the Universum College premises. WIFI is a free utility given in all of coffee shops and restaurants around Kosovo. If you wish to obtain a GSM SIM-card which will provide you a local phone number as well as constant internet access you can purchase service packages for reasonable price ranges 5-10 Euro depending on offer.

The most widely used GSM operators are:

- VALA
- IPKO
- Z-Mobile

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT GENERAL SAFETY

Kosovo generally is a very safe country. Despite its chaotic and tragic past, Kosovo remains a hot spot for visitors all around the year. Kosovo's abundant cultural, natural and historical resources as well as hospitality of its people have left unforgettable memories and traces to all of the visitors. General safety rules and common-sense measures should apply in public for your best time in the country.

WHAT IS OUT THERE TO SEE IN KOSOVO?

Kosovo might be the world's youngest country with vast history, culture, sights and attractions that awaits many visitors to explore and fall in love with the country. Nestled between the Dinaric Alps and the Sharr Mountains, Kosovo is an adventurous new country that acts as a rich and tiny playground in the Western Balkans respectively South East Europe.

There are multiple attractions for visitors in Kosovo

The Bistra Peak

Bistra is a peak in the Sharr Mountains located in Kosovo. This is the country's highest summit which reaches a top height of 2,609 m (8,560 ft). It can be found along the newly created trans-Balkan Via Dinarica trail. The peak offers perfect sights and camping spots.



Sharr Mountains

The Sharr Mountains form a mountain range in the Balkans that extend from Kosovo and the northwest of the Republic of Macedonia to northeastern Albania. These mountains offer many attractions and affordable resorts which include

restaurants, skiing resorts and many

other seasonal attractions skiing resort with multiple private cabins and houses for rent.



Rugova Mountains

Rugova is a mountain region located to the north-west of the city Peja, in Kosovo region. Rugova has been inhabited since before the 12th century and in 2013 was slopes. Special lights illuminate the tracks in Bogë making them suitable for nighttime skiing. Make sure you try this in full moon time and observe the combination of lights and the snow.



Brezovica

Brezovica, in the southeastern part of Kosovo, is known for its ski resorts. It is the most visited tourist destination in Kosovo. Apart from having multiple restaurants, preservation clubs, and hunting clubs this is a great place for camping and winter sports.



Mirusha Waterfall and Spring of Drini i Bardhë

Mirusha is a wonderful natural waterfall forming a lake beneath which is perfect for swimming, kayaking or chilling while you enjoy your cold beverage during the summer time. Make sure you visit Mirusha during the winter time as well and witness its magical beauty turning into a giant ice formation. On the other hand, natural Spring of Drini i Bardhë is located in the town of Istog close to the waterfalls. Witness the force of nature and see the zestful water coming deep from the ground.



Kayaking in Badovc Lake

Cristal clear blue water of Badovc Lake is surrounded by green, orange and amber colored forests which provide a magnificent view that will make your kayaking experience unforgettable. Badovc Lake is about 16 kilometers far from the capital city – Prishtina. Many people choose this place to spend their weekends and enjoy some water activities or barbecue parties.



Caving in Radavc

Only 11 km from the city of Peja a narrow tunnel holds the "Sleeping Beauty" Cave in Radavc. Its rock formations make dazzling colorful patterns one of which is a hand shaped formation; its fingers symbolizing the "Sleeping Beauty"



City of Prizren

Is the cultural and historical capital of Kosovo. The city represents a diverse environment where more than nine different communities speaking different languages and adhering to different religions live in harmony. This city consists of narrow and slippery streets paved with stones from Roman and Ottoman Empire, ancient historical buildings, a castle that is a perfect peak to observe the magnificent city as well as many religious monasteries, historical monuments and cultural sights.



City of Gjakova

The city is only 50 kilometers away from Prizren. It is easily accessible by frequent busses. Gjakova is a home of tradition, delicious food, wine, and a vivid nightlife.



City of Peja

Peja is the home of the most famous beer in Kosovo- Birra Beja (Peja Beer). Peja is located in the Rugova Canyon forming a scattered city across the natural formation of Canyon. There is approximately 640 meters of the zip-line, one of the world's top ten. First, you need to walk along a refreshing mountain path to reach the take-off spot. Once you take off you can let your spirit enjoy the dashing wind and breathtaking scenery.



The Albanian Language



Citizens of Kosovo generally speak several languages. The most common international languages spoken are: English, German, Italian, Serbo- Croatian. These languages have left traces in the linguistic history of Kosovo due to the past regimes and international intervention in the post war era. If you speak any of these languages you will have an easy time in ordering your food, asking for help or any suggestions, and engaging in communication with locals. Kosovo citizens are very friendly towards internationals. Feel free to talk to them! However, here are some basic expressions in Albanian in order to make you feel a little more like local.

Albanian	English
Pershendetje	Greetings
Tung	Hello/Hi
Faleminderit	Thank You
Te lutem	Please
Miremengjes	Good Morning
Miredita	Good Afternoon
Mirembrama	Good Evening
Po	Yes
Jo	No
Mire	Good
Keq	Bad
Uje	Water
Kafe	Coffee
Qaj	Tea
Ushqim	Food

ALB Pershendetje si jeni?

ENG Hello, how are you?

ALB Une jam mire, Faleminderit !

ENG I am fine, thank you.

ALB A mund te marre nje kafe (macchiato, cappuccino, espresso, americano)?

ENG Can I have a coffee?

ALB A mund te marre nje meny?

ENG Can I get a menu?

ALB Ku eshte Tualieti?

ENG Where is the toilet?

ALB Sa kushton?

ENG How much is it?

Cuisine

Albanian cuisine is enriched throughout the history because of the influences of different empires ruling Albanian territories. First the Romans and later on the Ottomans have contributed to the cuisine currently flourishing in households and restaurants in modern Kosovo. Kosovars like to add a little bit of twist to most of their food. Hence, the served food is always fresh, organic, finger liking delicious and unique. There is no other place in the world where the perfect harmony of meat, vegetables and pastries get on your plate for ridiculously cheap prices.



Flia is made with "saç" and is a specialty from the traditional Albanian cuisine, that is mostly prepared in mountainous areas. It is most certainly one of the typical Albanian dishes that everyone local will recommend could be considered a pie, however, mostly it is plain and is layered like a pack of pancakes (crepes). It is baked with cinders: the batter put on a pie-pan is covered with a "saç"- a metal dome over which hot cinders are placed to bake the dough.



Burek is a pie made of finely chopped or minced meat that is mixed with onion and spices and rolled into thin stretched layer of dough. There are different methods of burek preparation. Burek can be made with meat, cheese, spinach, cabbage. It is usually eaten hot when is freshly out of oven. In chasing it up Albanians like to have it a cold yoghurt, ajran (which is a sour yoghurt mixed with water and salt) more liquid that the actual vohhurt.



Dollma is stuffed peppers, which is a dish that exists in different names and forms around the world. However, in Kosovo it consists of hollowed or halved peppers (typically bell peppers), filled with any of a variety of fillings, often including meat, vegetables, cheese, rice, and various spices. They are usually assembled by filling the cavities of the peppers and then cooking. The ingredients for dollma are also wrapped in grape leaves and made another dish



Mantia is a traditional Albanian dish which can be made of ground beef or cheese. Beef/cheese and onions are sautéed in olive oil and bunch of different spices. They are then placed inside of a croissant like flaky and crispy dough. After baked for a while, garlic, goat yoghurt and salt are added to the pan and put back to the oven again until the yoghurt mixture starts drying and thickening.



Tava is a traditional Kosovan Casserole. Tava usually is made out of lamb, or chicken and seasonal vegetables. All of them are placed in the handmade pot/clay pots and baked slowly in the wood fired ovens. Additionally, tava can contain a mixture of fried cottage cheese, onions, garlic and sour cream which gives it a twist by easing the taste of lamb and spices



Qebap/kebab represents the pride and joy of all the Balkans as well as Kosovo. Qebaps are traditionally served with fresh white/green onions, salad and homemade ajvar (crushed and baked pepper and eggplants or squash). Qebap are eaten with the freshly baked flat/pita bread which usually are spread with olive oil or home-made mayonnaise



Birra Peja, is named after the city of Peja, in which is produced. This beer is amongst the most popular local beer preferred by every local. Peja is available in various tastes. Make sure you pick your fancy!



Kosovo is well known for its wineries. Various of small wine producing companies are available throughout the country. Kosovo exports large amounts of quality wine to western countries. Make sure you have a taste of **local wine**.



Rakia, is famous throughout the Balkans. Rakia is a strong clean liqueur made of locally grown fruits. It can reach from 37-52 proof. Make sure you sip one made of pear, quince or raspberry. Since they are more preferred in the country

PRISHTINA AND THE LOCALS

Citizens-Kosovars-are very friendly and hospitable. Being the youngest country with the youngest population in Europe, Kosovo is very used to international visitors. Almost everyone has a basic knowledge of English which makes the communication very easy. Kosovars are very generous and friendly people; it is not unusual for you to receive free meals, drinks or deserts form restaurants because you chose to visit their place. More than 70 % of Kosovars are below the age of 30 which make Kosovo a very dynamic, and vivid place.

Night life is very active in all the major cities in Kosovo. Prishtina is well known for its coffee culture throughout the day and a fun nightlife at night. There are variety of options on how to spend your day and night in Prishtina. Visit the:

- National Library
- National Museum
- Historic and Religious monuments



Enjoy your coffee and lunch at various coffee shops

Prishtina is full of various coffee shops or lounges that offer amazing coffee, snacks, food and drinks. Kosovars, are passionate about their coffee culture and relaxing time at coffee shops especially if the weather is sunny and warm.

Bear Sanctuary Prishtina

Prishtina is the only place in the Balkans that has allocated a large natural preserved area for Bears. There is a great restaurant offering organic food options for both vegetarians and meat lovers. All the contribution from the restaurant goes to the protection of bears and their natural habitat

Soma Book Station

This place is located right in the city center of Prishtina which offers a great working and hangout place suitable for both day and night. Soma has a considerable collection of books and variety of selection of drinks, snacks, and food. International visitors like to hang out at Soma, you might meet different people from all corners of the world.

Germia National Park

This park is in the walking distance to the city center of Prishtina. Germia is great for morning walks, runs and other physical activities in the nature.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION		
NAME	EMERGENCY CONTACT	E-MAIL
Ambulance	112	N/A
Police	192	N/A
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