

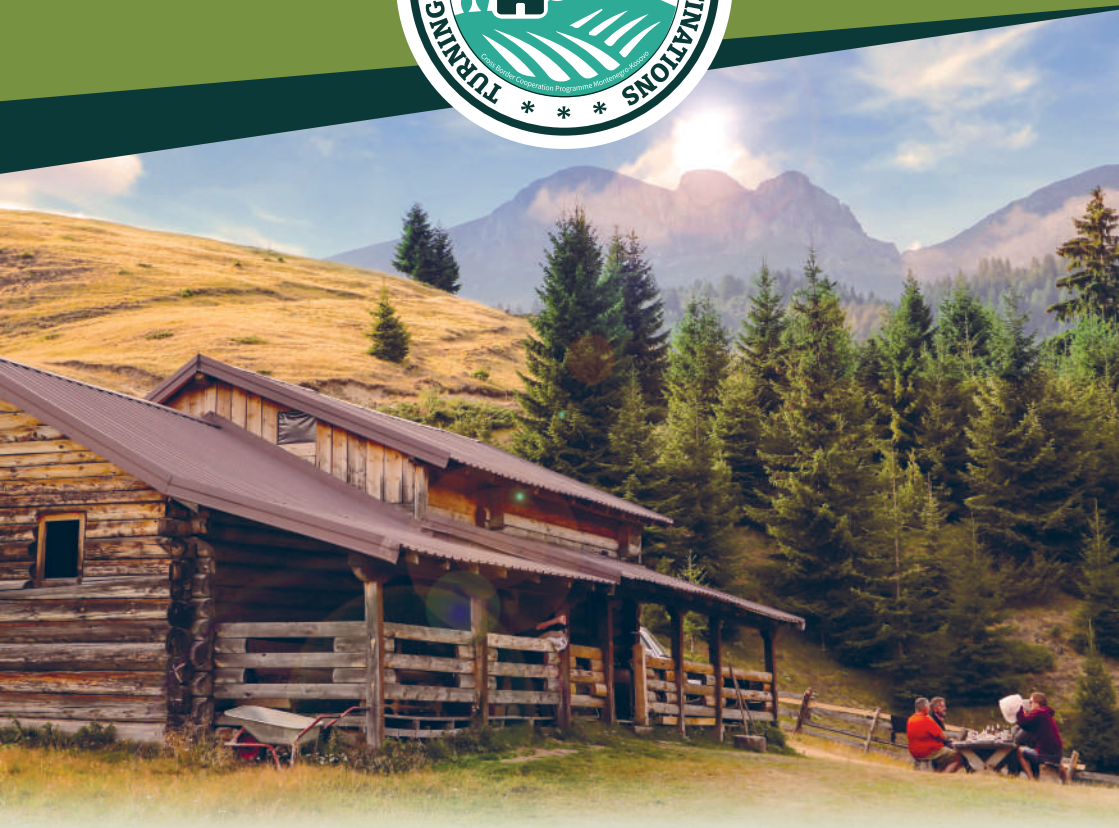


Funded by
the European Union



MNE-KOS
IPA CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME
MONTENEGRO-KOSOVO 2014-2020

RURAL TOURISM IN PEJA



Implemented by:



Komuna Pejë



REGIONALNA RAZVOJNA AGENCIJA
Bjelacica, Komovi & Prokletije



Implemented by:



Komuna Pejë



This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union through the IPA II Montenegro - Kosovo 2014-2020 Programme. The content of this publication is the sole responsibility of RDA-West and Peja Municipality, and does not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

About the Project

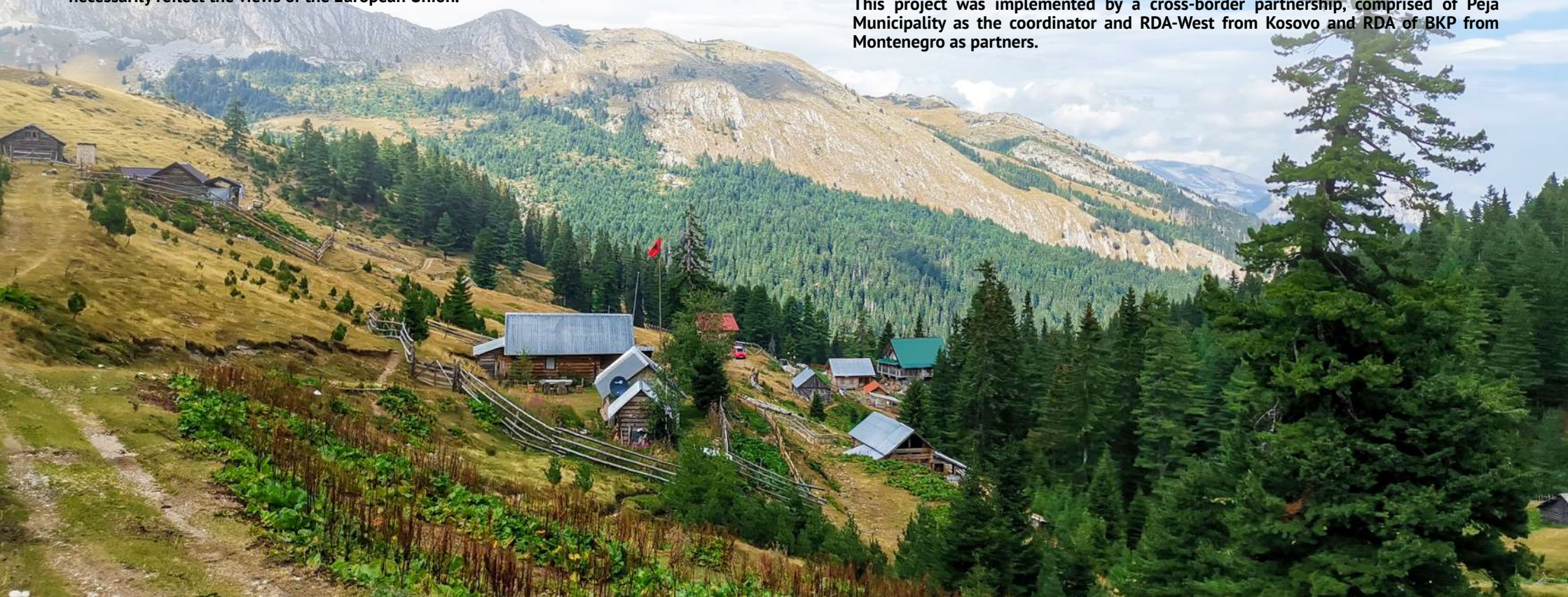
The “Turning our Villages into Tourism Destinations” project was funded by the EU through the Cross-Border Cooperation Programme of Montenegro and Kosovo. The overall objective of this project was to improve the volume, quality and visibility of tourism related to valorisation of cultural and natural heritage and values, with the specific objective of supporting rural tourism by developing the tourism offer on a village level. To this end, the project has achieved the following results:

Result 1: Increased capacities for rural tourism in the cross-border zone of Kosovo and Montenegro, where more than 200 individuals benefited from capacity building efforts, and development of guidebooks on delivery of rural tourism services based on the European Federation of Rural Tourism “RURALTOUR” methodology.

Result 2: Rural tourism offer developed in 15 rural zones through improvements to tourism related public infrastructure, and investments in 40 rural households. Additionally, 18 cross-border rustic trails were developed that promote the cultural and natural attractions of these zones, and also incorporate the 40 households that have been supported to offer services for guests and tourists.

Result 3: Tourism offer in villages promoted through websites, brochures, and annual cross-border promotional events, including development of cross-border networks of tourism service operators, to enrich the tourism service offer in both Kosovo and Montenegro.

This project was implemented by a cross-border partnership, comprised of Peja Municipality as the coordinator and RDA-West from Kosovo and RDA of BKP from Montenegro as partners.



ABOUT PEJA

Peja Municipality is found in western Kosovo and has a territory of 603 square kilometres containing a vibrant city centre and 95 equally lively villages in its highlands and flatlands. Located along the Lumbardhi River, it is nestled at the foot of the majestic Accursed Mountains. Peja is also the gateway to the Rugova Valley, Kosovo's most iconic and majestic mountain area.

Natural Heritage of Peja

Peja is adorned with natural beauty and beautiful landscapes, as it is also home to the Accursed Mountains National Park. Peja has great water resources, such as springs, rivers, streams, lakes, waterfalls, as well as numerous habitats and a great wealth of plant and animal life, as well as canyons, and caves. Some of these areas were already protected by law, even before the proclamation of the Accursed Mountains as a national park, as natural monuments or nature reserves, such as the Rugova Gorge (pictured), Drini i Bardh springs and Radavci cave, Gubavci forest, and many others.



The Flora of Peja municipality has a great diversity of over 1,000 species of Balkan and European plants that are classified as relict, endemic-relict and endemic. The alpine and subalpine areas are home to 33 endemic-relict species, 6 sub-endemic species, and 128 endemic Balkan species, which serve for scientific, economic and medical purposes. Based on the Red Book of Vascular Flora of the Republic of Kosovo, 126 species are in danger of extinction and 6 species are on UNESCO's European Red List – New York, 1991. Most of the highlands are covered in deciduous and coniferous forests, such as oak woods at altitudes of 300 m to 900 m, then beech tree forests from 800m to 1200m, followed by the belt of coniferous forests that reach altitudes of up to 2,200m made up of pine species, while above this line begin the pastures and alpine terrain. Medicinal and small plants play a very big role in the rich habitats of both mountain and flatland zones, and are also part of the tourism offer. Among them we can mention blueberries, junipers, cowslip, elder, crab apple, wild crape myrtle, cornelian cherry, hypericum perforatum, yarrow, nettles, dog-rose, etc.

The territory of Peja municipality is also home to a very rich Fauna with endemic and relict species. It features: 8 species of fish, 13 amphibians, 10 reptiles, 148 birds, 37 mammals, as well as 129 species of butterflies from the Lepidoptera order only, many of them of international importance, and this is why the Accursed Mountains are included in the IBA international list. Among the animals that should be mentioned are: the lynx (*Lynx lynx*), brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*), the goat antelope or chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra*), golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), lesser kestrel (*Falco naummani*), western capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*), alpine salamander (*Salamandra atra*), otter (*Lutra lutra*), wolf (*Canis lupus*), and wildcat (*Felix sylvestris*).



Cultural Heritage of Peja

Peja has a rich history, shaped by Illyrian, Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman influence and is one of the oldest inhabited places in Kosovo. Records of its existence date back to Illyrian times, being recognised as the most important city of ancient Dardania. A significant number of archaeological structures have been discovered in Peja, providing evidence of it being an administrative centre for the whole region of Dukagjini. Peja in ancient times and the middle-ages, all the way up to the XV century, was situated in the valley known as Gradina, where ruins can still be found, located in the area from the industrial zone to the railway station.



During the Ottoman period after the XV century the city centre was shifted to the area currently known as the old Bazaar. Peja throughout history has had different names. In the Illyrian and Roman times, it was called Siparantum, and later on and until the Middle Ages it was also called Pech, Peka, Pentza and Forno, while during the Ottoman period it was also known as Ipek. Peja has a total of 112 cultural heritage sites which include both architectural and archaeological structures, which are listed by relevant authorities as sites under protection. Out of this number there are 28 mosques, 2 tekkes, 5 catholic churches, and 6 orthodox churches, including the Orthodox Patriarchate which is now also part of the UNESCO List of World Heritage Sites, and the iconic Ottoman Bazaar, with the Bajrakli Mosque at its centre, which is still an active market where you can find craftsmanship shops, cafés, and local food vendors.



The Bayrakli Mosque, one of the oldest mosques in the city, stands at the heart of the city's Old Bazaar. Mosques in Peja date back to the Ottoman period, beginning in the 15th century when the city came under Ottoman rule. Many mosques were built in different periods, but those constructed during the Ottoman era are especially notable for their architectural features, distinct character, and interior frescoes and decorations. Some of the most prominent examples include the Bayrakli Mosque (pictured), the Defterdar Mosque, the Kurshumli Mosque, the Pehlivan Mosque, and the Clock Tower Mosque.

The Church of St. Catherine holds great significance for the city of Peja. Built between 1927 and 1928 on the foundations of a small pre-existing chapel, its construction was initiated by Father Lorenc Mazreku, who blessed the cornerstone in 1927. The first Mass was held on October 4, 1928, officially consecrating the church. Tragically, this devoted priest was later assassinated by communist forces in 1943. Architecturally, the church is designed as a three-aisled basilica. Its grounds also include several important structures, such as the building of Peja's first Albanian school and a humanitarian center run by the Sisters of Mother Teresa, established after Saint Mother Teresa's visit in 1982.

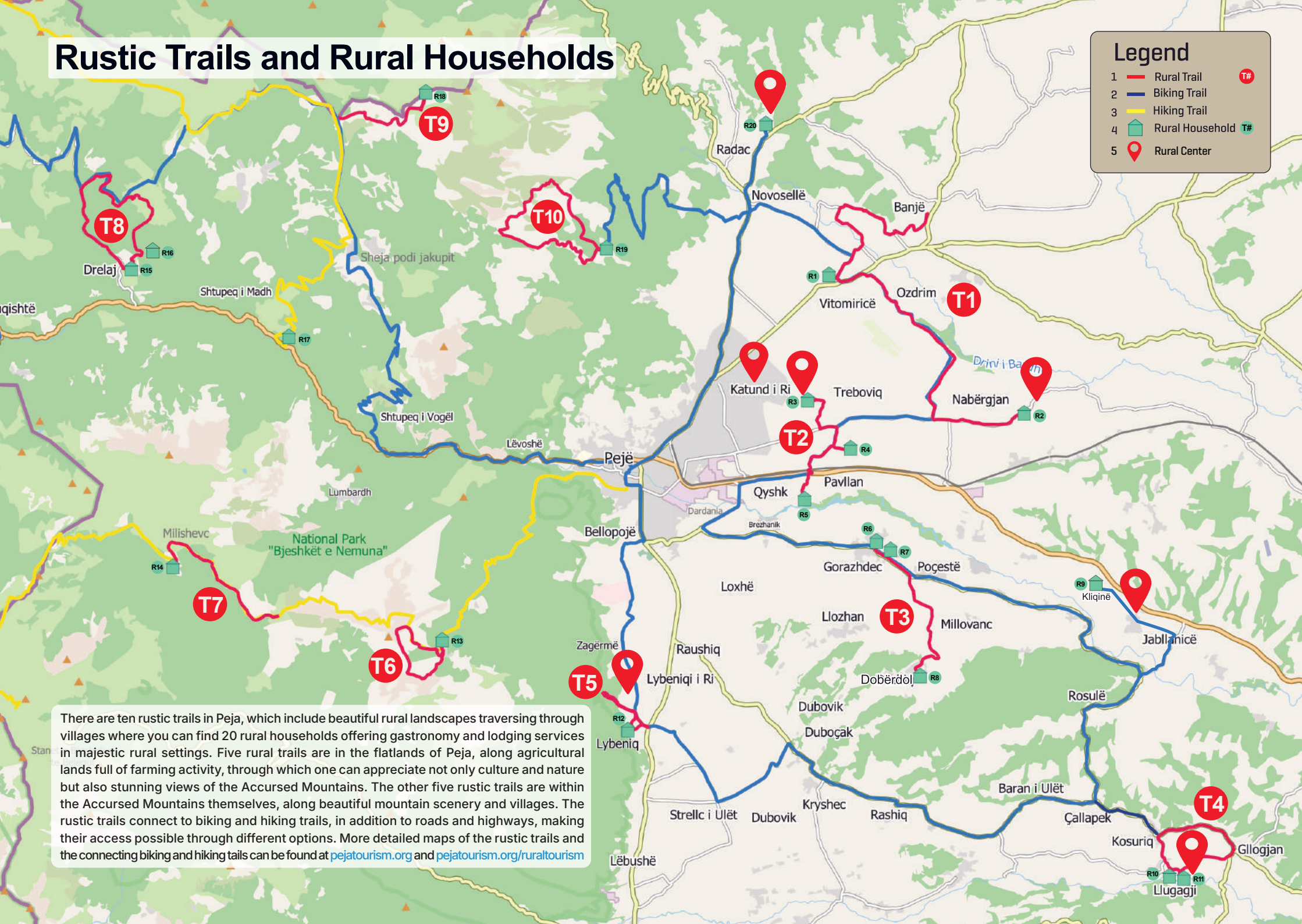


The Patriarchate of Peja dates back to the 13th century, and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site which stands as one of the most significant monuments of the late Byzantine period in Europe. Comprising four buildings constructed in different eras, the complex reflects the unique Byzantine-Romanesque culture that flourished in the Balkans between the 12th and 13th centuries, distinguished by its remarkable mural paintings.

Rustic Trails and Rural Households

Legend

- | | | |
|---|-----------------|----|
| 1 | Rural Trail | T# |
| 2 | Biking Trail | T# |
| 3 | Hiking Trail | T# |
| 4 | Rural Household | T# |
| 5 | Rural Center | T# |



There are ten rustic trails in Peja, which include beautiful rural landscapes traversing through villages where you can find 20 rural households offering gastronomy and lodging services in majestic rural settings. Five rustic trails are in the flatlands of Peja, along agricultural lands full of farming activity, through which one can appreciate not only culture and nature but also stunning views of the Accursed Mountains. The other five rustic trails are within the Accursed Mountains themselves, along beautiful mountain scenery and villages. The rustic trails connect to biking and hiking trails, in addition to roads and highways, making their access possible through different options. More detailed maps of the rustic trails and the connecting biking and hiking trails can be found at pejaturism.org and pejaturism.org/ruraltourism

Rustic Trails and Rural Households

T1. Banja e Pejës to Lutogllava rustic trail – Length: 13.1km – Difficulty: Easy

The trail covers the following villages: Banja e Pejës – Dubova – Vitomirica – Ozdrim – Nabergjan – Lutogllava.

Rural Households along the trail:

1. Kalać Family in Vitomirica village – managing a goat farm that offers traditional dairy and meat products and gastronomy services.

Contact: Mujo Kalać – Tel: +383 49 819 006

2. Kuqi Family in Lutogllavë village – managing a daily farm that specialises in traditional products and gastronomy services.

Contact: Muhamet Kuqi – Tel: +383 49 222 948 and +383 46 173 805

T2. Treboviq to Qyshk rustic trail – Length: 4.8km – Difficulty: Easy

The trail covers the following villages: Treboviq – Bllagajë – Qyshk.

Rural Households along the trail:

3. Isufi Family in Treboviq village – managing an animal farm with traditional dairy products, offering gastronomy services and accommodation for up to 10 individuals.

Contact: Rustem Isufi – Tel: +383 44 734 160

4. Nikqi Family in Bllagajë village – managing an animal farm with traditional products, offering gastronomy services and accommodation for up to 40 individuals.

Contact: Skender Nikqi – Tel: +383 49 867 098

5. Kelmendi Family in Qyshk village – managing a traditional baked foods and pies business, also offering gastronomy services in a rural setting.

Contact: Gentiana and Ardian Kelmendi – Tel: +383 49 812 653



T3. Gorazhdev – Doberdol rustic trail – Length 4.9km – Difficulty: Easy

The trail covers the following villages: Gorazhdevac – Poqestë – Millovancë – Doberdol

Rural Households along the trail:

6. Sribljak Family in Gorazhdevac village – managing a farm with traditional products, offering traditional gastronomy services and accommodation for up to 6 individuals.

Contact: Mirjana Sribljak – Tel: +383 44 750 239

7. Dunić Family in Gorazhdevac village – managing a farm with traditional products, offering traditional gastronomy services and accommodation for up to 10 individuals.

Contact: Branko Dunić – Tel: +383 49 647 775

8. Kastrati Family in Doberdol village – managing a farm and beekeeping business, that offers traditional gastronomy services and honey products.

Contact: Valbona Kastrati – Tel: +383 44 603 648 / +383 44 675 424

T4. Llugagji rustic trail – Length 5.7km – Difficulty: Easy

The trail covers the following villages in a loop: Llugagji-Kusuriq-Glllogjan-Llugagji, and also connects to the village of Kliqinë through the Peja biking trail and highway to Prishtina.

Rural Households along the trail:

9. Thaqi Family in Kliqinë village – managing a farm with traditional products, offering traditional gastronomy services and accommodation for up to 8 individuals.

Contact: Valbone Thaqi – Tel: +383 49 652 940

10. Balaj Family in Llugagji village – managing a traditional alcoholic beverages and whiskey production business, also offering products tasting services.

Contact: Dukagjin Balaj – Tel: +383 48 415 488

11. Berisha Family in Llugagji village – managing a traditional cakes and sweets business, also offering other traditional gastronomy services in a rural setting.

Contact: Sadri and Filloreta Berisha – Tel: +383 49 286 873

T5. Lybeniq rustic trail – Length 3.8km – Difficulty: Moderate

Access to this trail can be gained both through the Peja to Deçan highway, and through the Peja biking trail, which then connects to a mountain range over the village of Lybeniq, with spectacular views of the Dukagjini plains.

Rural Household along the trail:

12. Huskaj Family in Lubeniq village – managing a farm with traditional products, offering traditional gastronomy services and accommodation for up to 20 individuals.

Contact: Skender and Sevdije Huskaj – Tel: +383 44 567 951 / +383 44 282 288

T6. Irzniq rustic trail – Length 4.9km – Difficulty: Moderate

The trail is a loop that covers the Irzniq highlands settlement and approaches the Çfërla peak pass. The trail is connected to the Accursed Mountains hiking trail, but can be accessed through mountain terrain roads, only with specialised vehicles.

Rural Household along the trail:

13. Çekaj Family in Irzniq highlands settlement – managing livestock and wild berry harvesting, with traditional gastronomy and accommodation for up to 10 individuals, with prior booking.

Contact: Demë Çekaj – Tel: +383 48 271 147

T7. Zllanopjë rustic trail – Length 4.7km – Difficulty: Moderate

It progresses along mountain settlements, and is also part of the Accursed Mountains hiking trail. It can also be reached through mountain terrain roads, only with specialised vehicles.

Rural Household along the trail:

14. Ahmetxhekaj Family in Zllanopjë village – managing the mountain lodge “Lojza” which offers traditional gastronomy and accommodation for up to 24 individuals.

Contact: Zeki Ahmetxhekaj – Tel: +383 49 850 857

T8. Drelaj rustic trail – Length 8.9km – Difficulty: Moderate

The trail is a loop that covers beautiful mountain landscapes progressing towards Pepaj village and returning back to Drelaj. It can be accessed through the Peja to Boge main road going through the Rugova valley, or through the Accursed Mountains hiking and biking trails.

Rural Households along the trail:

15. Lajqi Family in Drelaj village – managing a mountain lodge which offers traditional gastronomy and accommodation services for up to 10 individuals, with prior booking.

Contact: Lulzim Lajqi – Tel: +383 49 574 321

16. Lajqi Family in Drelaj village – managing a mountain lodge which offers traditional gastronomy and accommodation services for up to 14 individuals, with prior booking.

Contact: Blend Lajqi – Tel: +383 49 895 025

T9. Shtedim rustic trail – Length 3.6km – Difficulty: Moderate

The trail is located in the border area with Montenegro and provides stunning views of peaks and mountain ranges, with access through the Accursed Mountains hiking trail connecting from Shtypeq i Madh and the biking trail connecting from Shtypeq i Vogël.



Rural Households along the trail:

17. Nikqi Family in Shtypeq i Madh village – managing a mountain lodge which offers traditional gastronomy and accommodation services for up to 16 individuals, with prior booking. The lodge is found in the connecting hiking trail leading to Shtedim.

Contact: Besime Nikqi – Tel: +383 44 732 899

18. Morina Family in Shtedim village – managing a mountain hut which offers traditional gastronomy and accommodation services for up to 12 individuals, with prior booking.

Contact: Drita Morina – Tel: +383 49 546 983 / +383 49 970 734

T10. Lipa rustic trail – Length 9.3km – Difficulty: Moderate

The trail is a loop that covers the highlands settlement of Lipa, with spectacular views of the Dukagjini plains. The trail connects to the Peja biking trail which leads to the villages of Novosellë, Radavci and Jabllanica e Vogël, also connecting to the road leading to Monenegro.

Rural Households along the trail:

19. Ahmeti Family in Lipa village – managing a mountain lodge which offers traditional gastronomy and accommodation services for up to 12 individuals, with prior booking.

Contact: Haxhi Ahmeti – Tel: +383 49 882 845

20. Mujaj Family in Jabllanica e Vogël village – managing an animal farm offering traditional gastronomy and accommodation services for up to 10 individuals.

Contact: Valbona Mujaj – Tel: +383 44 326 830.

OTHER THINGS TO DO IN PEJA



Biking: Peja offers many attractive biking trails that go through beautiful agricultural fields and villages, full of historical landmarks, and trails that go through the Accursed Mountains.



Hiking: Mountain hiking is one of the most popular activities in Kosovo's western region. Peja stands out as it is the gateway to the Accursed Mountains National Park.



Via Ferratas: are an exciting activity that delivers both adventure and adrenaline. This unique experience involves climbing of rock faces while being securely attached to a fixed metal safety cable, using ladders and steps built into the rock formations. In Peja's Rugova Gorge, there are five Via Ferrata routes available.

Zip Line: is a thrilling recreational activity that allows you to fly through the air while sliding along steel cables. Peja's famous Zip Line is located in the stunning Rugova Gorge, just 4 kilometers from the city center. It spans 640 meters, with flights reaching heights of up to 60 meters above ground and speeds of up to 60 km/h.



Paragliding: Flying over the city of Peja is an entirely different experience from other recreational experiences, with spectacular views of the Dukagjini Valley and the Accursed Mountain range.



TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE

For all information regarding Rural Tourism offers and other tourism related activities, including the outdoor activities please contact or visit the Tourism Information Office in the city centre.

Address: Mbretëresha Teutë St. No.59
30000 Peja, Kosovo
E-mail: pejatorism@yahoo.com
E-mail: info@pejatoruism.org
Web: pejatoruism.org

TOUR OPERATORS AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITY ASSOCIATIONS

The following tour operators and outdoor activity associations provide a full range of services for visitors and tourists who would like to experience the tourism offer in Peja.

Balkan Nature Adventure
Edit Durham 7, Peja, Kosovo
+383 49 661 105
info@bnadventure.com
www.bnadventure.com

Mrika Seven Summits
Rr. Bukureshtit 9, Peja, Kosovo
+383 49 222 268
mrika@mrikasevensummits.com
www.mrikasevensummits.com

Outdoor Kosova
Ismail Qemajli 10A, Peja, Kosovo,
+383 49 168 566
outdoorsinfo@gmail.com
www.outdoorkosova.com

Wander Adventures
Jakup Ferri 16, Peja, Kosovo
+383 49 656 451
info@wanderbalkans.com
www.wanderbalkans.com

Mountaineering Association "Gjeravica"
Mbretresha Teute, Peja, Kosovo
+383 49 135 590
shbagjeravica1928@gmail.com
Facebook: SHBA Gjeravica Peje 1928

Alpinist Association "Marimangat e Pejës"
Mbretëresha Teutë str, Peja, Kosovo
+383 49 174 442
marimangat@gmail.com
www.marimangat.com

Cycling Association Cyclists sans Frontiers
Nëna Terezë 95, Peja, Kosovo
+383 44 165 298; +383 44 139 179
csf.bpk@gmail.com
www.csf-bpk.com

Kosova Outdoor
Çameria 43, Peja, Kosovo
+383 44 350 511
kosovaoutdoor@gmail.com
www.kosovaoutdoor.net

Touch the Sky Peja - Paragliding
Peja, Kosovo
+383 48 123 124
eduard.daci.95@gmail.com
Instagram: [touchtheskypeja](https://www.instagram.com/touchtheskypeja)

Rugova Experience Trek
Mbreti Pirro, Peja, Kosovo
+383 44 267 498
rugovatur@gmail.com
www.rugovaexperience.org



Funded by
the European Union



MNE-KOS
IPA CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME
MONTENEGRO-KOSOVO 2014-2020



pejatourism.org/ruraltourism

Implemented by:



Komuna Pejë



REGIONALNA RAZVOJNA AGENCIJA
Bjelšica, Komovi & Prokletije