

*Archaeological
Guide
of Kosovo*



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Dear friends,

The guide that you already have in your hands marks a very significant step towards documentation and presentation of our archeological heritage. This guide is a short summary, but very important one that aims to offer explanations for some tens of archeological sites, from 400 of them identified in total in the territory of Kosovo until now, and registered in the List of Cultural Heritage for Temporary Protection of Republic of Kosovo. As such, the guide will serve as an informant for chosen locations and maybe the most important ones documented in Kosovo. This guide is dedicated to all group ages that are curious to know about abundant archeological heritage of our country. The guide is prepared in a chronological order starting from prehistory until the medieval period.

The Archeological heritage of Kosovo, recorded until today, presents a very valuable treasure of our country. The archeological potential identified during the second part of the last century has been documented through variety of archeological research. These have been carried out during the last decade in the form of trial trenches, field surveys, systematic excavation as well as geophysical, archeo-botanical and archeo-metallurgical studies.

This interrelated scientific archaeological research presents an acknowledgement, analysis and presentation of the rich archeological heritage of Kosovo. This archeological testimony reflects the traces,

remains, ruins and artifacts of past civilization, of the autochthonous population as well as eastern and western civilizations, documented in a determined space and time.

Due to several decades of research of local archeologist, especially in the last decade, through cooperation with archeologist from Albania, France and particularly with the arrival of specialist from the fields of interdisciplinary archeology, our colleagues from Germany, Kosovo now can present an extraordinary abundant, diverse archeological heritage, in and out of the country.

Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports will continue to support expeditions with reconnaissance, investigative character, and archeological studies and in particular publications through which cultural archeological heritage of Kosovo will be presented and promoted.

MEMLI KRASNIQI

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports

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Introduction

The favorable geostrategic position and wealthy natural resources were ideal for the development of life since the prehistoric periods, proven by traces of the hundreds of archaeological sites discovered and identified throughout Kosovo, which proudly presents the rich and abundant archaeological heritage of our country.

The short archaeological guide accompanies us through the ancientness of Kosovo and is designed in the manner to offer only basic information of few selected archaeological sites of Kosovo.

Certainly the number of sites with archaeological potential is increasing, this as a result of findings and investigations that are carried out throughout Kosovo, but also from many identified superficial traces which offer a new overview of antiquity of our country.

The earliest traces documented in the territory of Kosovo belong to the Stone Age Period, namely there are indications that cave dwellings might have existed like for example the Radavc cave set near the spring of the Drini i Bardhë river, then there are also some indications at Gërničar cave (Vitia Municipality), Dema and Karamakaz of Peja one, etc. However, life during the Paleolithic or Old Stone Age are not confirmed yet and not scientifically proven. Therefore until arguments of population of Paleolithic and Mesolithic man



are confirmed, Neolithic man, respectively the Neolithic settlements are considered as the chronologic beginning of population (human occupation) in our country. From this period until today our country was inhabited and traces of activities of societies from the prehistoric, ancient and up to medieval time are obvious and spread almost on the entire territory of Kosovo, whereas, in some archaeological sites traces of multilayer settlements clearly reflect the continuity of life throughout centuries.

The guide presented doesn't have a character of a cultural or tourist guide, but, furthermore, since the establishment of infrastructure for development and promotion of the archaeotourism and archaeological park is very costly, and time and expertise are required, then this guide only offers general and brief information for some of the most important archaeological sites in Kosovo.

Collected materials for compilation of this guide were gathered and used either from published or earlier reports archived at the Archaeological Institute of Kosovo, archives of Kosovo Museum, but also from the existing Kosovo Archaeological Heritage Data Base.





The New Stone Age, Neolithic

The warm and humid climate of the Holocene that came soon after the last ice melting of the last glacial period, brought changes in the nature, which were reflected in humans as well in the flora and fauna of the general living environment. This climatic stabilization influenced changes in the human's life's and activities. The human society from now is characterized by the changes in community organization and especially in the establishment of permanent settlements, set in dry places, near the river shores and on fertile plateaus.

Neolithic man now mastered stone and tooled weapons, tools and even used stone for the primitive architecture. The main cultural characteristics of the new stone age (Neolithic), are primarily based on the archaeological documentation, and the most present material are stone modeled materials, therefore we know this period as New Stone Age or Neolithic civilization (Neo-new, Lithos-stone).

During this period major changes occur, this influenced the way of living, from a lifestyle of hunting and gathering to agriculture and settlement.

During this period, which can be attributed to the domestication of animals and very important the pottery production emerged with other supporting professions that lead to the development and prosperity of the human civilization.

The Neolithic man now leaves hunting and gathering as the primal profession, which influenced new way of living, from nomadic to semi nomadic living. Moreover, the crop cultivation was the main economical activity, and the work on the land is done using the stone, animal bone/horn and wooden materials. It should be emphasized that during this period, the role of the woman shifts to the first plan, mostly involved in creation of clothing, pottery production, taking care for the living space and children, food preparation and small animal domestication. All previously mentioned work is done by the Neolithic woman. Anthropomorphic figurines discovered all around the world as well as in our country prove this argument whereas in most cases, the human modeled figurines were created in the schematic shape in most of the cases present female bodies.

The main economical sources of the Neolithic period were; agriculture, manufacturing tools, weapons and pottery, domestication and animal breeding, farming, (pastoral economy) and to a smaller portion hunting and fishing. Therefore the settlements were erected near the natural resources. The majority of Neolithic sites that were researched in our country shed light on the fact that dwellings were built with the usage of circumstantial materials found near the settlements. Neolithic settlements where in most cases constructed of built huts with wooden frames and sticks, coated with soil and mixed with oaten chaff, while roofs of the huts were constructed with inter twisted cane and rye chaff.

Even though among archaeologists and academics there are different perceptions regarding the time span and Neolithic dating, it can be argued that the time frame 6500-3500 BC should be regarded as the relative real extent of the Neolithic period in the Balkans.

The cave and rock art is proved in our country confirming the usage of caves as temporary shelters for defense, but also as the prehistoric cult places, for the worship of gods of the polytheistic pagan world. The main cult was attributed to the mother goddess. This is an undisputed proof that mother (woman) figure takes an important place since she runs the house, takes care of the family, is involved in the process of cultural and economic development as well as social organization of the family. Such position of Neolithic woman is also known as the period of matriarchate which is a distinguished feature of Neolithic period.



■ 4

The archaeological site, respectively the multi layer settlement of Vlashnje, is located on a flat plateau of a raised rocky terrace (335 meters above the sea level), on the right side of Pristina-Zhur road, approximately 6 km west of Prizren.

Continuity of life throughout several periods was evidenced at this site. Commencing from the early Neolithic (Starcevo Culture), Middle and Late Neolithic (Vinca Culture), Copper Age, Bronze Age, Iron Age, and Hellenistic Period and lasted all through the Late Antiquity and Early Medieval. The discovered archaeological materials at this site, mostly recorded during the season excavations carried out on the first part of the second millennium, revealed a certain amount of vari-

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ous fragments of clay pottery and fragmented vessels, stone tools, flint and bone tools, and other artifacts of either decorative or utilitarian material, coins.

During the Late Antiquity, the settlement of Vlashnje known by the toponym Gradishta of Vlashnje, was fortified with constructed walls, typical characteristic of the refortification era carried out by Byzantine emperor Justinian the Great. Furthermore, the fortified area included approximately 2 hectares and most likely was used as an observation point of the roman road segment known as the *Via Lissus-Naissus* (Lezha-Nis) that bypassed the Vlashnje settlement.

Diverse fragments of painted with geometrical lines pottery have been unearthed, as well as flint

- Fig. 4. The view of the terrace setting of the archaeological site of Vlashnje.
- Fig. 5. Map of the site location
- Fig. 6. Orthophoto of the archaeological site of Vlashnje
- Fig. 7. Pottery fragment, painted with geometrical lines. (KAI)
- Fig. 8. Flint knife. (KAI)
- Fig. 9. View's on few excavated trenches in Vlashnje.





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knife of the Neolithic epoch, respectively Starcevo culture, sixth millennium BC.

Different anthropomorphic figurines are discovered at the excavations carried out during the first decades of the second millennium (2002-2010), from which one distinguished human shaped figurine which is a typical Starcevo Culture of the early Neolithic period from the sixth millennium BC.

Also Zoomorphic figurine discovered in Vlashnje, of Early Neolithic period, respectively, sixth millennium BC.

A particular baked clay pot, with decoration, was discovered in Vlashnje, this of Late Neolithic period, typical for the Vinca Culture, third millennium BC.

Different table vessels from the baked clay, of the Bronze age Period, were found at this site.



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■ 12

Different table vessels from the baked clay, of the Bronze age Period, were found at this site.



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■ Fig. 10. Human shaped collection of figurines from baked clay, the enlarged picture of one of the figurines (*Archaeological Institute of Kosovo*).

■ Fig. 11. Clay baked ornamented figurine in shape of the bull (*Archaeological Institute of Kosovo*).

■ Fig. 12. Biconical vessel decorated with incises and laceration, punctuation technique (restored) (*Archaeological Institute of Kosovo*).

■ Fig. 13. One-handle cup from the Late Bronze Age (KAI).

■ Fig. 14. Two-handle vessel from the Late Bronze Age (KAI).



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Rock painting of Vlashnje, respectively, the locality known by the toponomy 'Guva e Mrrizit', is a rock shelter formed by the overhang of a cliff characteristic with the painted symbol of the spirals, represents an artistic-spiritual world of the prehistoric inhabitation of this site (cult place) the rock cave with this art is situated around 1, 5 km west from the Vlashnje archaeological site in the village of Kobaj.

Among many findings of different historical period discovered in Vlashnje, is a specific silver coin minted in the year 55 BC. The coin weights 3.72 grams, and was exchanged in the honor of the Crete edile, the distinguished Gnaeus Plancius.



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■ Fig. 15. Painted symbol of the double spirals

■ Fig. 16. The Vlashnje silver coin. (*Archaeological Institute of Kosovo*).



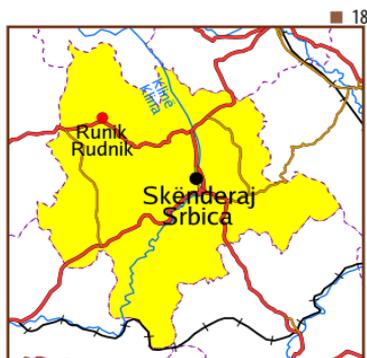
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Runik

The Neolithic site of Runik, is situated in the Municipality of Skenderaj, at the Runik village. The site is positioned at the Drenica plateau approximately 25 km southwest from Mitrovica and around 10 km northwest from Skenderaj, close to the road direction that connects Skenderaj with Istog.

The Runik Neolithic site is one of the most prominent early new Stone Age sites discovered so far in Kosovo, typical for Starcevo Culture, respectively the sixth millennium BC, reflecting one of the most developed civilizations of this time. Furthermore, this archaeological site was investigated from 1966-68 and again in 1984. Archaeological researches' through trial trenches were carried out in around 35 private parcels of the *Dardania* neighborhood of the Runik village. A vast movable material and fragments of pottery of the Neolithic date (6500-3500 BC) were collected and recorded here, evidencing the both Neolithic, respectively, Starcevo and Vinca cultures. Advanced researches were carried out at this site during March 2010; investigations with the character of surveys known as the prospection or geophysical recording with the aid of magnetometer were conducted in two parts of this archaeological area, that all together sum up to 10000 meters square.

This open Neolithic settlement was characterized by traces of the remains of constructed huts which were reinforced with wooden



■ Fig. 17. Spherical earthenware vessel, decorated with the impresso technique, discovered in Runik of Skenderaj (*Kosovo Museum*).

■ Fig. 18. The site location of Runik/Rudnik in the municipality of Skenderaj.



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- Fig. 19 & 20. Discovered vase in Runik, Skenderaj, Starcevo Culture, and (Kosovo Museum).
- Fig. 21. Neolithic vases from Runik, (Kosovo Museum).
- Fig. 22. 'Ocarina' (Kosovo Museum).

corded joists, without floor levels. From the discovered movable archaeological material at this site, the most dominant are the fragments of monochrome pottery with red gloss; as well earthenware decorated with the barbotine and impresso technique, but also painted ceramic pottery with the linear and geometric motifs, too. Also, at this site anthropomorphic figurines and cult tables or small altars were unearthed.

Among different dishes discovered in Runik, a baked clay vase draws the attention. The vase was tinted with ocher colors and painted with dark colors and decorated in the shape of spiral with the motive of palm of the hand.

Amid the diverse discovered artifacts recorded at this representative Neolithic site, a unique artifact was found, presenting a rare and exclusive discovery not just for Kosovo, but for wider region, too. This particular modeled fine cleaned baked clay handcraft creation measures 8 cm in height, with finger holes on the axles and a mouthpiece on the highest ax. The ocarina is a Neolithic flute-like wind instrument and was named *Runik Ocarina*, the earliest pre-historic musical instrument ever recorded in Kosovo.

The sounds and warm vibrations released by this instrument transmit vivid reflections of the wealthy spiritual and musical world of the Neolithic man of this region.



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Varosh

The identified Neolithic site of Varosh is situated in the municipality of Ferizaj, respectively, located only 2 km south, southeast from the city, on the flat terrain of the Varosh village.

Even though this Neolithic settlement was not archaeologically excavated, nor was investigated through the trial trenches, in several cases, occasional traces and remains of different Neolithic ceramic fragments were recorded, which happened during the work on the fields. The majority of the revealed movable archaeological materials clearly indicate traces of a nucleated Neolithic settlements of Starcevo and Vinca cultures. During 2011, in some parcels of this archaeological site, geophysical recordings, respectively, magnetometer survey were carried out, resulting with reflection of several underneath structures that might indicate the remains of Neolithic houses/dwellings.

■ Fig. 23. Anthropomorphic figurine discovered in Varosh. Starcevo Culture, Early Neolithic Period. The sixth millennium BC. (Accidental find: Archaeological Institute of Kosovo)

■ Fig. 24. Map of the site setting of the Neolithic location of Varosh, Ferizaj Municipality.



Zhitkoc and Karagaç

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The Neolithic site of Zhitkoc is situated in the municipality of Zvečan, approximately 3km north from Zvečan, set on a plateau near the train station of Zhitkoc. In 1958, several test excavations were carried out near the river Ibër shore, which resulted with evidencing remains of typical Neolithic settlement of both cultures, the earlier one- Starcevo and the later one, Vinca culture.

The neighboring archaeological site of Karagaç, is situated in a lower terrace along the shoreline of the river flow. The site was investigated during 1955 and 1960. The archeological results reflected occupation during the middle Neolithic, respectively, the settlement was established on the major part consisted by half earth grounded ellipsoid huts protected with ditches. Inside the houses/dwellings, a considerable amount of Starcevo culture pottery production was discovered. Moreover, the settlement continued to exist in a later phase, whereas; the huts were constructed with intertwined timber beams coated with earth/mud.

Based on the discovered fragments of ceramic and anthropomorphic figurines, this settlement was inhabited also during the earlier phase of the Late Neolithic, respectively Vinca culture. Beside Neolithic material, at the same area, a certain amount of remains and traces of a settlement and cemetery of Bronze and Iron Age, was proven, an undisputed fact that clearly illustrates the life continuation from the prehistoric period.



- Fig. 25. Anthropomorphic figurine discovered in Zhitkoc. Starcevo Culture, Early Neolithic period, sixth millennium BC. (Mitrovica Museum).
- Fig. 26. The location of the two Neolithic sites, Zhitkoc and Karagaç in the municipality of Zvečan.



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Vallaç

The village of Vallaç is situated north of Zhitkoc-Karagaç, in close vicinity of the Ibër river delta, set on the upraised terrace known as the Vallaç rock. The site was investigated partially in two seasons; 1955 and 1957. Within the 1.8 meter deep cultural layer, remains of the settlement, respectively dwellings were recorded, mainly composed of the huts constructed by timber beams and protected by ditches around circular dwellings. Amid the abundant discovered archaeological material at this site, characteristics are considerable amount of the anthropomorphic and zoomorphic figurines, modeled and carefully designed typical terracotta statues for the Late Neolithic Vinca Culture, known as the Vinca C. Another peculiar feature discovered at this location was evidenced below the Neolithic layers, confirming the continuation of the site occupation during the Late Iron Age with fortified traverses that protected the entrance of the settlement.

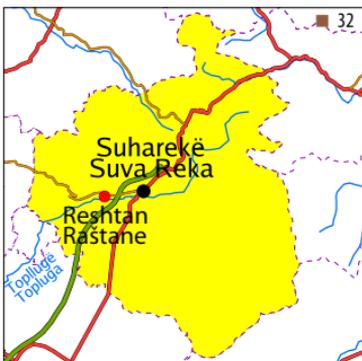
- Fig. 27. Anthropomorphic figurine (MK)
- Fig. 28. Terracotta figurine of a Centaur. Both artifacts were discovered in Vallaç. Vinca Culture, Late Neolithic Period. (MK)
- Fig. 29. The map of the Neolithic site of Vallaç location, Zveçan Municipality.





Reshtan

Reshtan is a Neolithic settlement situated in the vicinity of Suhareka (positioned on the close proximity of the road Suharekë-Prizren). This archaeological site went through investigations carried out in two seasons 1966/67, which had the character of the archaeological survey. During March 2011, a considerable surface of this site was under a field prospection, respectively, geophysical survey recorded a certain amount of the surface. Nevertheless, at the same year, archaeological excavations conducted here, unearthed an area of 250 m², investigations that resulted with documenting three occupation layers of the middle Neolithic and the beginning of the Late Neolithic date (4200-3800 BC). In the 2 meter thick cultural layer, three horizons of occupations were recorded, indicating remains and traces of houses with fire place and protection ditches. Based on the discovered fragments of pottery, the analogy of forms and ornamentation led to conclusion that beside the Vinca Culture, here, at this site, there was a strong presence of the Danilo Adriatic Culture.



- Fig. 30. View of the section A (salvage excavations carried in 2011; AIK)
- Fig. 31. *Bucranian*, the protector of the Neolithic dwellings as discovered *in situ*. (Archaeological Institute of Kosovo)
- Fig. 32. The location map of the Neolithic site of Reshtan, Suhareka municipality (Theranda).



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- Fig. 33. Cult vase (Riton) Danilo Culture discovered in Reshtan. (Archaeological Institute of Kosovo)
- Fig. 34. Fragmented dish with human facial features discovered in Reshtan. (Archaeological Institute of Kosovo)
- Fig. 35. Two handle dish, modeled from the baked clay, discovered in Reshtan. (Archaeological Institute of Kosovo)



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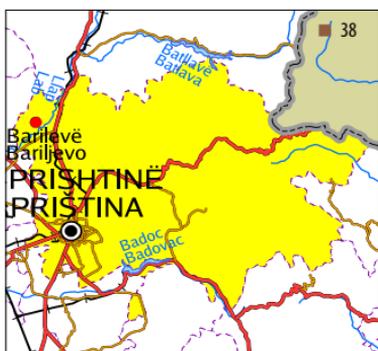
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Barileva

The Neolithic site of Barileva, is situated at the village with the same name, stretched at the fertile fields known locally as the ‚Arat Kovaçe‘ (English; Kovaçe fields). The first signs of archaeological value of this archaeological site were recorded in the 60’s, with accidental discovery of a particular terracotta figurine, typical for the Vinca Culture.

Interestingly, this Neolithic settlement is situated near the river flow of the Llap River; this clearly reflects the fact that usually, Neolithic dwellings were set in fertile lands nearby or close to the river shores.

In regard, during the 2011, geophysical survey (magnetometer prospection) conducted at large part of this area, resulted with confirmation of vast archaeological potential of this spread Neolithic settlement.



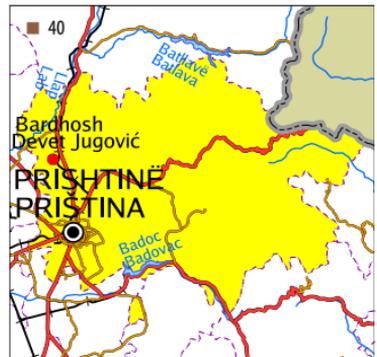
- Fig. 36. Baked clay figurine (terracotta), in sitting position. Height: 26.5 cm. Vinca Culture. Accidental finding. (Kosovo Museum).
- Fig. 37. Terracota in the form of anthropomorphic head discovered in Barileva. Accidental finding (Archaeological institute of Kosovo)
- Fig. 38. The location map of the Neolithic site of Barileva, Prishtina municipality.



Bardhosh

Bardhosh is positioned north of Prishtina, set on the left side of the road to Podujeva. The Neolithic site of Bardhosh was accidentally discovered in 2002, on the occasion of opening foundations in order to build a private house together with accompanying annexes.

The immediate rescue excavations carried out at this location firmly confirmed remains and ruins of the Neolithic dwellings, houses with fire places, stone Hawn working tools, vessels and fragments of ceramic, etc. Furthermore, a quantity of qualitative anthropomorphic terracotta figurines discovered here, typical for the *Vinca* Culture but with the distinctive feature of Kosovar variant of so called ‘Pristina style’ were proved at this distinguished site.



- Fig. 39. Anthropomorphic figurine from Bardhosh, Vinca Culture. (*Kosovo Museum*)
- Fig. 40. The location map of the Neolithic site of Bardhosh municipality of Prishtina.

Tjerrtorja-Prishtina

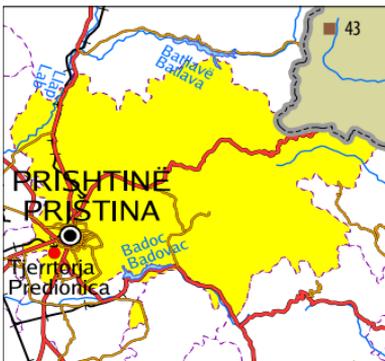
The Neolithic site of 'Tjerrtorja' was identified accidentally in the 50's of the last century, when the factory was started to be built, known as the cotton and textile production plant 'Tjerrtorja'. The Neolithic site was named based on the discovery place. The archaeological site is situated at Prishtina's suburban neighborhood known as 'Kalabria'. The settlement traces of Neolithic data were recorded at this site and the rich and abundant recovered archaeological material composed of terracotta figurines, human shaped statues and baked clay anthropomorphic artifacts, and other finds discovered at this Prishtina location, do clearly present two marvelous Neolithic/Vinca features; the artistic and symbolic prehistoric achievements. In regard, the gorgeous sculptured terracotta figurines discovered in this Prishtina area, came to light as results of several rescue excavations carried in the second part of the 20th century; (in 1951, 1955-56 and 1962). Amid several discovered marvelous artifacts, the most impressive one is the so called 'Goddess on Throne', which according to the eminent British archaeologist, Professor Renfrew, belong to the distinctive group of Kosovar Vinca Culture, of the 'Pristina Style'; due to figured and artistic distinguished features. The terracotta figurines of this archaeological site are distinguished with particular features



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- Fig. 41. 'Goddess on throne' (Kosovo Museum).
- Fig. 42. Baked pottery, decorated with motifs of muffled snake, discovered in Tjerrtorja/Predionica. End of the sixth-beginning of the fifth millennium BC. (Kosovo Museum).
- Fig. 43. The location map of the Neolithic site of Tjerrtorja/Predionica 'Kalabria (Emshir), municipality of Prishtina,

of the carefully modeled heads, emphasized noses and big convex eyes (almond shaped). What's more, one of the most reputed world leading prehistorians now late professor Maria Gimbutas, has argued that individual gods can be seen among the figurines discovered in Pristina, always referring to 'Goddess on Throne' as unique artifact.

'Goddess on throne' is one of the most precious archaeological artifacts of Kosovo. The terracotta figurine is exhibited at the permanent archaeological exposition hall at the Kosovo Museum. The figurine represents a female deity, reflecting the cult of the great mother idol. The anthropomorphic figurine in appearance displays a stoic female posture, in sitting position, with two hands lean on the waist, and set on the throne. The figurine's head is five angular with sharp facial contours. A diadem is set above the head in shape of the semicircular ridge hunch. The figurine is typical for the Kosovar variant of the Vinca Culture, respectively Pristina distinctive style. The terracotta statuette dates sometime between the forth-third millennium BC. Accordingly, the Kosovo Museum has adopted the image of the 'Goddess on Throne' as distinctive institution's logo. Nevertheless, the image of the 'Goddess on Throne' has been adopted as the symbol of Pristina



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■ Fig. 44 Four Neolithic anthropomorphic terracotta heads discovered in Tjerrtorja/Predionica (Kosovo Museum).

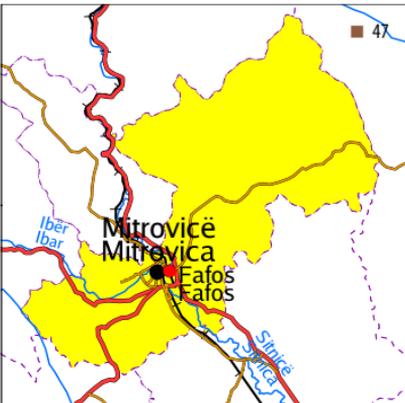
■ Fig. 45. The orthophoto of the site area with the factory premises





Fafos-Mitrovica

The archaeological site of Fafos is situated in the suburban area of Mitrovica, set within the industrial quarter of the FAFOS factory, (phosphates production). The site was investigated during the time frame of 1955 and 1961. In total, approximately, 1200 square meters were excavated, confirming the presence of two Neolithic (Vinca culture) settlements set apart from one another around 200 meters. The earlier date settlement (Fafos I) comprised characteristic dwellings of half buried shelter huts, whereas, the later date settlement (Fafos II) consisted of house-huts aligned one aside the other. The archaeological research revealed the fact that the majority of the unearthed remains of



- Fig. 46a&46b. Prosopomorphic lids made of processed and baked clay, stylized with motifs and astonishing artistic ornamentation discovered in Fafos. (*Kosovo Museum*).
- Fig. 47. The map localization of the Neolithic site of Fafos, Mitrovica Municipality.
- Fig. 48. Terracotta figurine in human shape with emphasized elements of the female attributes, discovered in Fafos (*Kosovo Museum*).
- Fig. 49. Cult table or altar with three legs, made of clay and baked, discovered in Fafos (*Kosovo Museum*).
- Fig. 50. Centaur figurine. Vinca Culture. Discovered in Fafos (*Kosovo Museum*).

the huts where destroyed in an extensive fire. In both settlements different objects of everyday use were discovered, as for example; cult objects, rite vases and anthropomorphic figurines.



■ 46b



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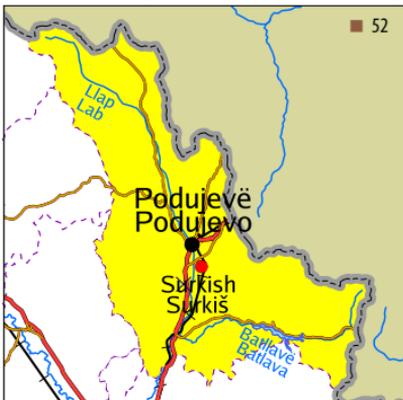
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Surkish

The identified Neolithic site of Surkish, is situated only few kilometers south-southeast from the town of Podujeva, set in the village of Surkish. The archaeological site known by the toponym Gumurishte, is an area with unknown size and the archaeological stratification is un-studied yet while there have been no trial trenches or excavations so far.

Nevertheless, based on the collected movable archaeological material, accidental findings discovered as a result of the agricultural works carried there it was possible to ascertain the fact that it is a Neolithic center inhabited during the New Stone Age.



- Fig. 51. Anthropomorphic head modeled from processed and baked clay, discovered in Surkish (chance find).
- Fig. 52. The Map with localized Surkish Neolithic site. Podujeva Municipality (Besianë)

Neolithic Stone Axes



■ 53



■ 54

■ Fig. 53 & Fig 54 Collection of tooled axes, Hawn (Neolithic Age) discovered in various parts of Kosovo. (Archaeological Institute of Kosovo and Kosovo Museum.

Relative dating of the Metal Period



*COPPER Age
3500-2500 BC*



*BRONZ Age
2500-1100 BC*



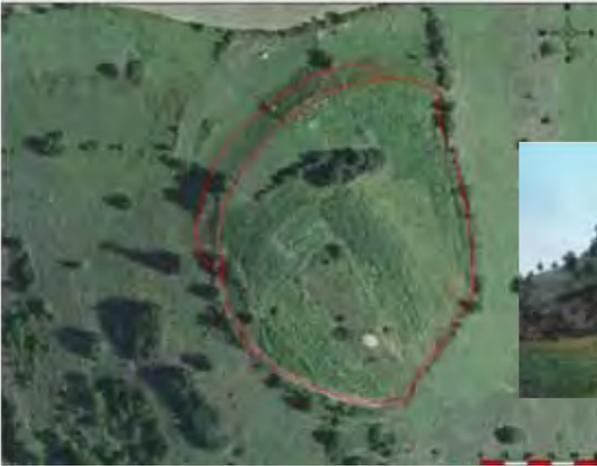
*IRON Age
1100- midd 4th century BC*

The metal period

The metal period incorporates a long stretched timeline of over three millenniums, commencing from approximately 3500 BC up to middle of the fourth century BC. During the gradual evolution of the human society, from the usage of stone, the man advances to the usage of metals, namely, commencing primarily with the usage of copper since the second part of the fourth millennium BC. In fact, the new period is known as the Copper Age and chronologically commences with the end of the Neolithic Period. Nevertheless, the Copper Age in the archaeological jargon is known as the Neolithic Period (eneus-copper and lithos-stone), therefore, the binom Copper Age an Eneolithic mean the same distinguished metal emerging period.

In the chronological history of the territory of Republic of Kosovo, this timeline incorporates approximately the period from 3500 up to 2500 BC. In our country, several archaeological sites of this particular transitory period from stone to metal usage have been recorded. Amid the most important copper age sites are, the multi-layer site of Hisar in Suhareka (Therandë) and the multi-layer fortified settlement of Gadime e Epërme/Gornje Gadimlje, in the municipality of Lipjan. Furthermore, this transitory period is distinguished especially for some changes and developments within the Copper Age society, among the most important ones to mention here are; the transformation of the society regulation from matriarchal to patriarchal organized society, but also, beginning of the separation of social classes,

respectively, social differentiation within the society, makes this period different and particular from earlier and later periods. The Bronze Age followed the Copper Age, stretching in the time period from 2500 up to 1100 BC. With the advancement of the metallurgy factorial industry, and with the mixing of copper with tin, the bronze was created as an alloy. The formula invention for creating this stronger metal, leads towards the preparation and production of weapons, tools and jewelry. The particularity of this period lies in the fact that matriarchate is replaced with patriarchate, the social differentiation was developed and the first elements of tribal aristocracy emerged. All new changes and developments are reflected in the material culture discovered in various sites across Kosovo. During the past researches' carried in Kosovo, dozens of settlements, cemeteries and fortresses of the early, middle and late Bronze Age were recorded. Nevertheless, this period marks the beginning of the creation of the Illyrian ethnos which was consolidated during the following Iron Age (1100 BC-middle of the 4th Century BC.), a period that is credited for full consolidation of the ethno-culture unity of the Illyrians, respectively the Dardanians, as one of the biggest and the most populated tribes of vast territory, whereas, the present territory of the Republic of Kosovo, takes a central position within the Dardanian Kingdom. Besides the exploitation of the metals for the massive production of weapons and to some extent the working tools for agriculture, the Iron Age evidenced in Kosovo is well presented with lowland settlements but also with upland fortresses, often protected by traverses and ditches or drywalls. Regarding the fortifications, the Iron Age is characteristic for the erected fortresses on the top of the hills, with good geostrategic positions, partially protected by nature. Nevertheless, the identification 'stamp' of the Iron Age as documented, recorded and studied in Kosovo, are the burial mounds, or locally known as the tumulus graves (Illyrian grave hills), and quite dispersed all around Kosovo, counting maybe hundreds and either set in groups or even as solitary tumulus.



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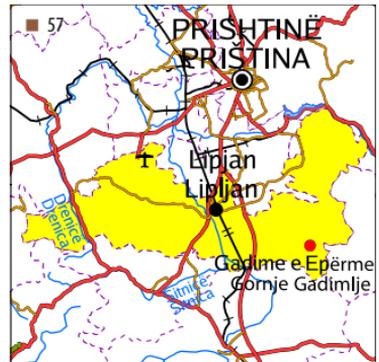
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Gadime e Epërme

The archaeological site of *Gradishta* is situated on top of a plateau of the eponymous hill, set on the western part an area rich with minerals of Zhegoc Mountains. The fortress holds an extraordinary geostrategic position and it is a typical Copper Age and Iron Age mountainous settlement with fortified area characteristics.

The fortress is situated on the eastern part of Gadime e Epërme village. The site was archaeologically investigated during the 1973-1974, which resulted with the documented remains of the Copper Age, respectively the Bubanj Sallkuca–Krivadol culture occupation. Also the fortress was reused during the Late Iron Age. Nevertheless, it is important to say that during the Eneolithic period, the fortress was reconstructed in several occasions (phases) and is very significant that discovered fragment of pottery decorated with the ‘graffito technique’ and ornamented with the lacernation motifs, are most probably done by sharp tools. On the other hand, in the later phase of life continuation, during the later part of the Iron Age, several interesting fragments of imported Greek (Hellenistic) ware were discovered.

- Fig. 55. Orthophoto of the Gradishta hill, respectively the Copper Age fort of Gadime.
- Fig. 56. View of the site-Gadime fort, situated above the Gradishta hill.
- Fig. 57. Map localizing the Copper Age (Eneolithic Period) Gradishta fort of the Gadime e Epërme. Lipjan Municipality.

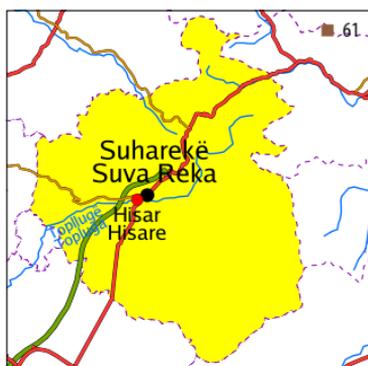




Hisar

The archaeological site, respectively the prehistoric settlement of Hisar, is situated on the southwestern part of town of Suhareka, set on a plateau (terrace) dominating the wider flat terrain of the north side, situated between Suhareka in the north and Shiroka in the south, on the right side of the road from Suhareka to Prizren. The terrace is an elliptical flat area measuring in diameter 180 x 90 m and counting a total surface of approximately 1.1 ha, with the highest elevation recorded 422 m (above sea level).

The first archaeological excavations were carried out in several seasons; 1961-1963, 1978 and again after two and half decades, the Archaeological Institute of Kosovo continued in two annual seasons in 2003-2004. The discovered archaeological material recorded at this site during the excavations, stretches from the Late Neolithic continuing until the Iron Age, which offers an overview for the study of the material culture of the autochthonous Dardanian population. Hisar presents a very important prehistoric civilization not only for the region, but for the entire Balkans, too. The site is a proof of a flourished town of a Copper Age.



- Fig. 58. and Fig. 59. View of the Hisar settlement.
- Fig. 61. The map of the multilayer archaeological site of Hisar
- Fig. 60. Orthophoto of the Hisar hill plateau



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- Fig.62. & Fig.63. Copper Age dishes discovered in Hisar. (*Archaeological Institute of Kosovo*).
- Fig. 64. Cult vessel (*Archaeological Institute of Kosovo*).
- Fig. 65. Copper Age spoon discovered in Hisar (3500-2500 BC) (*Archaeological Institute of Kosovo*).
- Fig. 66 Early Bronze Age axe discovered in Hisar (*Archaeological Institute of Kosovo*).
- Fig. 67 Prehistoric mill-stone for graining crops discovered in Hisar. Approx. date: Iron period (11th-9th century BC). (*Archaeological Institute of Kosovo*).



■ 67b

■ Fig. 67b. Dardanian jewelry. Accidental findings near the Hisar site relative dating: Approx. date: Iron period (8th-7th century BC). (*Archaeological Institute of Kosovo*)

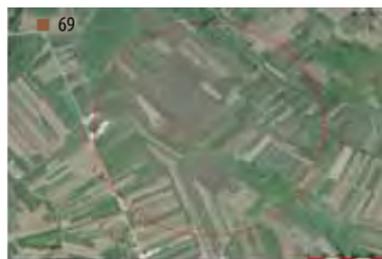


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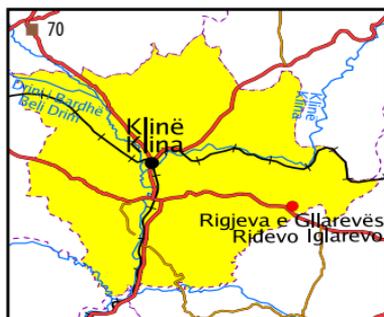
The archaeological site of Gllareva is situated at the central part of the Gllareva village, (Klina Municipality) situated on the right side of the Prishtina-Peja road, stretched on the fields of Rigjeva. This archaeological site was identified accidentally in 1973.

The archaeological excavations conducted here in the 80s, were focused in two locations, one not far from the other. Both sides were recorded as necropolises with two different burial rites. One of the necropolises is typical for flat burials constructed with stone plates, whereas the bases were covered with gravel, and the other necropolis was typical with incarnation ritual, respectively the cremation burial. In the chronological

Gllareva



■ 69



- 68. View of the excavations carried in 1986 at Gllareva necropolis. (*Kosovo Museum*)
- Fig. 69. Orthophoto of the Gllareva site. Municipality of Klina.
- Fig. 70 .The map of the Gllareva site location.



■ 71

aspect, both sites were dated to the Late Bronze Age. Amid many excavated/researched burials, besides abundant archaeological material discovered there, which were documented and recorded as the grave goods, of which, the most particular were several bronze coated swords and daggers, typical for Mycenaean culture recorded at this location. This clearly indicates the exchange and consolidated contacts between the ancient centers of the Greek world, and informs us about the established communication links among the inter-tribal societies of the Balkan tribes.



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■ Fig.71. Weapons, sword, daggers, lance arrows. Discovered in the Gllareva necropolis (*Kosovo Museum*).

■ Fig. 72. Bronze needle enlaced in the shape of a double spiral; (*Kosovo Museum*).

■ Fig.73. Bronze forged needles, discovered in Gllareva (*Kosovo Museum*).

■ Fig. 74. Anklet (grave 1) (*Kosovo Museum*).

■ Fig. 75. Bronze forged tooled button (grave 7) discovered in Gllareva (*Kosovo Museum*).

■ Fig. 76. Different pots modeled in baked clay, discovered at the Bronze site of Gllareva (*Kosovo Museum*).



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Boka e Përçevës

The Boka e Përçevës tumulus necropolis is situated few kilometers up northwest from the Gllareva necropolis. This grouped tumulus burial is dated in Late Bronze and Early Iron Period, and is very characteristic for the huge number of the dispersed burial mounds within a wider complex area. In total, 19 burial mounds were detected so whereas, among them; only seven were excavated and researched during the seventies of the last century.

The rich and abundant archaeological material in the form of grave goods were discovered here, whereas, tooled weapons, different decorations and diverse qualitative vessels and earth ware pots, all together clearly reflect the undisputed facts of the remains of a advanced indigenous Dardanian civilization.

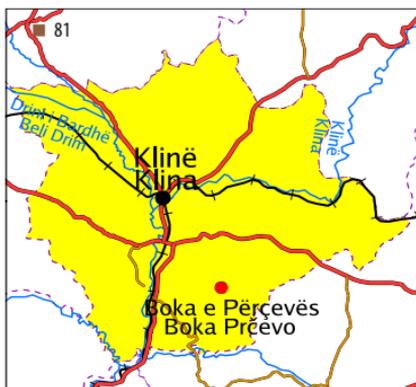


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- Fig. 77. Several bronze bracelets discovered at the Boka Përçeva tumulus (Kosovo Museum).
- Fig. 78. Spear head collection discovered inside the tumuli necropolis of the Bokës e Përçevës. (Kosovo Museum).
- Fig. 79. An ornated bronze forged button discovered inside the tumulus XIV, grave 23. Boka e Përçevës. (Kosovo Museum).
- Fig. 80. Processed bake clay dish, discovered inside the burial mound XIV, grave 7. (Kosovo Museum).
- Fig. 81. The site localization on the map of the Boka e Përçevës burial mounds complex.





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Rogova

The tumuli necropolis of Rogova, situated at the location known locally as the *Fusha* (Field), is set around 4 km southeast from the tumuli necropolis of Fshej, located on the right side of the Gjakova-Prizren road.

This necropolis complex comprises 6 burial mounds, mainly in good condition and some of them where quite damaged. The site was investigated for the first time in 1966 and then again in several other occasions in 1973, 2005 and lately in 2011.

All previous researches resulted with the same outcome confirming the traces of a group of the tumulus which is based on the discovered movable archeological ma-

- Fig. 82. View of the excavated tumulus of Rogova, photographed in 2011. (*Archaeological Institute of Kosovo*)
- Fig. 83. View of the excavated tumulus of Rogova, photographed in 2005. (*Archaeological Institute of Kosovo*)
- Fig. 84. Aerial picture of the site
- Fig. 85. The site setting map of the tumuli necropolis of Rogova, Gjakova Municipality.

terial dating in the Middle Bronze Age (1800-1500 BC). Nevertheless, the site was reused also during the Early Iron Age, again as a necropolis. The researched burials contained very rich grave goods, which according to the researchers, were stored in the graves together with the buried persons. The grave goods were personal objects or belongings of the deceased, in most case, either, weapons, decorations, and other personal possessions of not ordinary persons.



- Fig. 86. Nail-head needles typical for the Late Bronze Period discovered inside a tumulus in Rogova (Kosovo Museum).
- Fig. 87. One handled dish in the shape of an ax; (Archaeological Institute of Kosovo).
- Fig. 88. Two handled dish of the Middle Bronze Period discovered in Rogova (Archaeological Institute of Kosovo).
- Fig. 89. Forged bronze bracelets discovered inside the grave of the tumulus 1 in Rogova. (Kosovo Museum)
- Fig. 90. Amber necklace discovered in Rogova. (Kosovo Museum).



■ 91

Korisha



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■ 94

The Bronze Age site of Korisha, was investigated in 2006, research excavations carried out through trial trenches. The site is situated on the eastern slope of the horse saddle shape hill near the Korisha antique castle. The settlement measures an approximate area of 1 hectare, with the highest elevation point recording 728 meter, and the lowest 723 meters above the sea level.

The settlement was a typical fortified site, protected by nature in one side, and traverses on the other sides. The archaeological test excavations carried out at this locality at two sections, resulted with the documentation of typical Bronze Age dwellings, confirming the life continuity during the early and middle Bronze Period.

Among the discovered movable archaeological material, the most worth mentioning ones are; stone tooled utensils, fragments of various earthenware and other smaller findings, typical for this period.

- Fig. 91. View from the distance of the Bronze Age archaeological site of Korisha, (Archaeological Institute of Kosovo).
- Fig. 92. View of few excavated trenches of the Bronze Age archaeological site of Korisha, (Archaeological Institute of Kosovo).
- Fig. 93. Aerial view of the Korisha archaeological site. Prizren Municipality
- Fig. 94. The site setting on the map of the Korisha archaeological site. Prizren Municipality.



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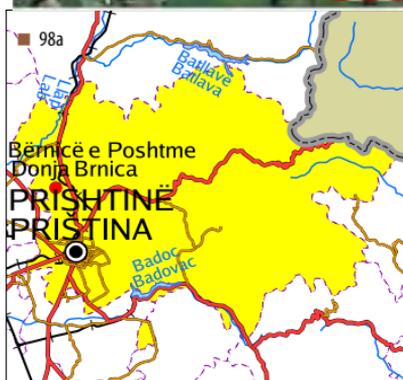
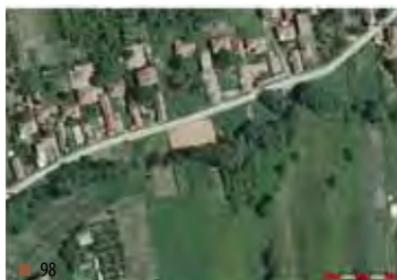


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Bërnice e Poshtme

The researched Late Bronze and Early Iron Age site of the Bërnica e Poshtme, is situated around 5 kilometers north of Pristina, stretched along the Pristina-Podujeva (Besiana) road. This is a typical flat necropolis whereas the cremation urn-burial was practiced. The ashes of the deceased were stored in urns and buried inside either individual or group graves in flatten areas, that in the archaeological literature is known as the ‘urn-fields necropolis’.

Based on the results of research discovered material from this burial complex, a particular method of grave construction was recorded. The stone tholoid plates were set in the shape of a semicircular grave base. The urn-field burials were investigated in the eighties of the last century, after an accidental finding of an urn. Nevertheless, since the discovery of this flat necropolis, the archaeological culture was named the Bërnica e Poshtme/Donja Brnica Culture.



- Fig. 95. Two handle urn of the Bërnica Culture (Kosovo Museum)
- Fig. 96. Two handle urn of the Bërnica Culture (Kosovo Museum)
- Fig. 97. Two handle urn covered with lid-urn as discovered in situ inside the Bërnica flat grave necropolis. Bërnica Culture, (Kosovo Museum).
- Fig. 98a. The site setting map of the Bërnica e Poshtme archeological site, Prishtina Municipality.
- Fig. 98. Orthophoto of the site setting of the Bërnica e Poshtme necropolis.

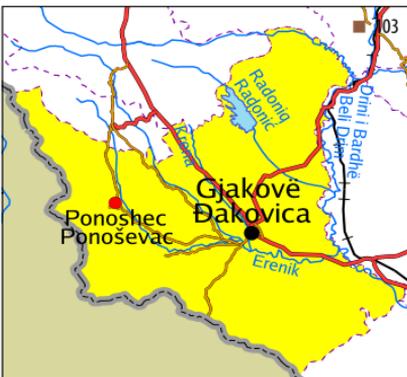


Ponoshec

The tumulus necropolis of Ponoshec is situated at the locality known by the locals as *Arëza*, stretched in several parcels in around 5-6ha area, close to the river flow of the Labenica creek. The tumulus necropolis is composed by a grouped burial mounds; five of them were identified so far. In general, the tumulus measure between 12 and 18 m in diameter and the maximum height of the burial mounds goes up to 1 meter of elevation.

The rescue excavations carried out during the 2011 season resulted with abundant discoveries of the grave goods with typical characteristics of the Iron Age Illyrian mound-graves. Nevertheless, the

study of the movable material as recorded here, proved interesting outcome on the site chronology and material culture, confirming the occupancy continuity from Bronze and particularly during the Iron Age. Nevertheless, the burial mounds were effectively reshaped in 12th-10th century BC, and then again reused during the 6th and 4th century BC, a time period known as the Dardanian Ancients.



- Fig. 99. Two snake headed amulet discovered in Ponoshec. (Archaeological Institute of Kosovo)
- Fig. 100 belt buckle discovered inside the tumulus 1. Late Bronze Age (1500-1100 BC); (Archaeological Institute of Kosovo)
- Fig. 101. The spear head, discovered inside the central part of the burial mound number 1. Late Bronze Period (1500-1100 BC) (Archaeological Institute of Kosovo)
- Fig. 102. View showing the excavated Ponoshec tumulus 1 as photographed in 2011. (Archaeological Institute of Kosovo)
- Fig. 103. The map showing the setting of the tumulus necropolis of Ponoshec, Gjakova Municipality.

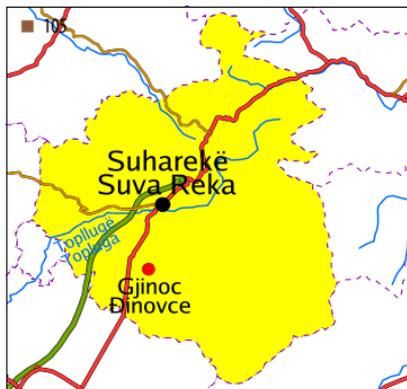


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Gjinoc

The Gjinoc burial mound (Illyrian tumulus), is a unique case of tumulus's recorded in Kosovo.

The overall diameter of the tumulus measures: 84 meters running toward east-west and 73 meters running toward north-south. The highest elevation of the tumulus measures almost 10 meters and tumulus was not yet scientifically researched. Nevertheless, based on the overall dimensions, the tumulus construction, height and setting, most probably the burial mound was constructed during the Late Iron Age of the Dardanian antiquity. Moreover, when taking into consideration the overall facts, it might be stated that the giant tumulus grave was constructed for a very important family with a high social status. The burial mound is situated less than 200 meters on the left side of the Suhareka-Prizren road.



■ Fig. 104. The view of the giant Gjinoc tumulus, Suhareka (Theranda) Municipality.

■ Fig. 105. The setting of the archaeological site of Gjinoc burial mound, Suhareka (Theranda) Municipality.

Bellaçec

The Bellaçec (Bardh i Madh) prehistoric fortress is situated on top of a low hill, a naturally protected terrain configuration from north, south and east, in one hand, and the traverse and ditch barriers from the western part, which made this fortified settlement an important

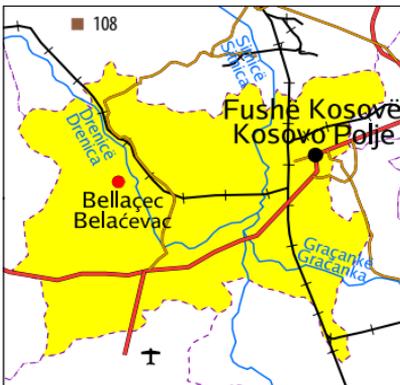
stronghold for its time. Additionally, the Drenica River flows below the foot of the hill, whereas few meters up north, the Çiçavica Mountains encircle the surrounding landscape. The ancient fortress is in the trapezoidal shape, measuring 70x50 meters inside the fort, while, the exterior surrounding is characterized by rows of traverses composed of mixed earth and river stones. This extraordinary strategic geographical position of the fortress was ideal for the inhabitants to observe a wide zone of the Fushë Kosovo region. The excavations confirmed occupancy evidenced based on the discovered material, which were unearthed after more than 28 centuries. The earthenware finds are mainly decorated with caneluras and dots, typical for the Dardanian decoration style of the Dardanian anciently, respectively the late Iron Age, this also confirming the local and regional pottery production.



■ 106



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The archaeological excavations carried on this site, mainly in the form of trial trenches at this site conducted in several seasons since the end of the sixties of the past century to continue up to present year. In 2011, a geophysical survey conducted with the geomagnetic device, has recorded underground features of the fort's compounds, premises which will come under the light through future excavations. The site occupancy was active during the 8th up to the 5th century BC.

■ Fig. 106. Two handle dish from the Iron Age (Kosovo Museum).

■ Fig. 107. Orthophoto of the hill, respectively the Iron Age stronghold.

■ Fig. 108. The map pinpointing the site setting of the Bellaçec (Bardh i Madh) prehistoric fortress. Fushë Kosova Municipality;

Fshej

The Fshej burial mound necropolis belongs to the Late Iron Period (7th – 6th century BC). During the archaeological excavations carried out here in 2011, five tumulus burials were archaeologically excavated and researched, which resulted with rich and abundant archaeological material, typical for determination of the chronology of the site, which clearly confirms the occupancy of the Dardanian population, respectively the time period of the unification of their ethoculture. The burial mound group is situated approximately 800 m south, southwest from the *Ura e Shenjtë* stone bridge. The funerary rite practiced here, the inhumation or free burial of the deceased buried inside a burial constructed as a grave case built with river stone graves, illustrates one of the burial rites of the indigenous population. Besides, the inhumation ritual practiced by the Dardanians, the incarnation/cremation of the late person was widely used in Dardania.



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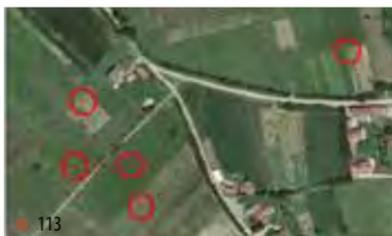
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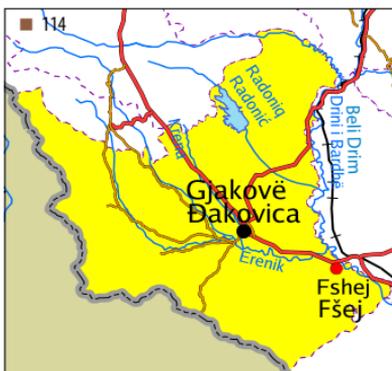
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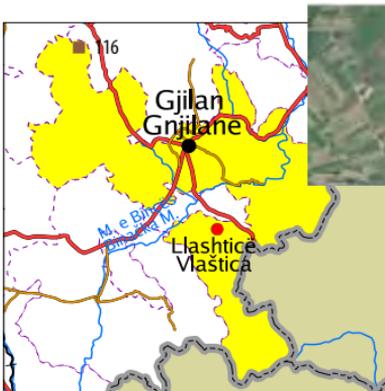
- Fig. 109. Two handle dish from the Bronze Period discovered within a tumulus in Fshej. (Archaeological institute of Kosovo)
- Fig. 110. Tumulus II (Archaeological institute of Kosovo) 2011
- Fig. 111. Tumulus III (Archaeological institute of Kosovo) 2011
- Fig. 112. Grave 1 of the tumulus II (Archaeological institute of Kosovo) 2011
- Fig. 113. Orthophoto of this tumuli necropolis, pinpointed with dots (photo encircled in red)
- Fig. 114. The map of the Fshej tumulus site of the Gjakova Municipality, situated near the Fshej stone bridge.



Llashtica

The Llashtica burial mounds are situated approximately 10 km north-east from the Gjilan, set on the left bank of the Morava e Binçës River, stretched in a wider area of the agricultural fields of Llashtica village and bordering with the mountains of Karadak. Nine burial mounds were recorded so far, all characteristic for the Late Iron Age. Approximately, 1.5 km north from this site, a flat settlement was researched through scan excavations carried out in 2011, confirming the same occupancy period with the mounds, respectively the Late Iron Period. Nevertheless, the archaeological researches were carried out in several seasons at the Llashtica tumulus site commencing in 1980, 1981 and 1982, whereas, five burial mounds were excavated up to the geological layer. In 2011, a tumulus known as number VIII was excavated in two segments. On the other hand, as stated earlier above, the Iron Age settlement researched in 2011 offered an overview of the past society while the burial and settlement complemented the information of the indigenous population. In regard, wealthy archaeological movable objects discovered here, different in form and material as for example the earthenware, jars, plates and jewelry (fibulas, bracelets, necklaces, etc.) and on the other hand, fragmented cult figures with bird motifs coated on bronze, all clearly an overview of a vivid reflection of the Iron period civilization.

One of the burial mounds (tumulus VIII), which is in a relatively good condition, measures in dimensions; 32 x 32m in diameter, whereas the height of the tumulus survived up to 1.60 meter. The archaeological excavations revealed remains of the deceased who was cremated and ashes most probably scattered. The tumulus necropolis is dated in the Late Iron Period.



- Fig. 115. View of an excavated burial mound. (*Kosovo Museum*)
- Fig. 116. Map of the Llashtica tumulus site, Gjilan Municipality.
- Fig. 117. Orthophoto of the stretched Illyrian tumulus of Llashtica.



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Shiroka

Shiroka group burial mounds situated near the Shiroka village, situated around 1.5 km south of town of Suhareka (Theranda), stretches on the right side of the road. The Dardanian cultural group of the tumulus, characteristic for the construction type with circle shaped graves, built by a mixture of earth and river stones, was identified at this site. Not far from this locality, a multilayer site of Hisar in one side and the Dubiçak burial mounds in the other side are situated. The past archaeological excavations carried here, resulted with the remains of a necropolis of the Bronze Age date and reused during the Late Iron Age. The discovered movable archaeological material composed of abundant and particular findings distinctive for the ornamented and decorated earthenware, most likely indicate that the vessels were imported and came through the trade and exchange from the Hellenic world and beyond. The necropolis of Shiroka, was erected during the 8th-6th century BC.

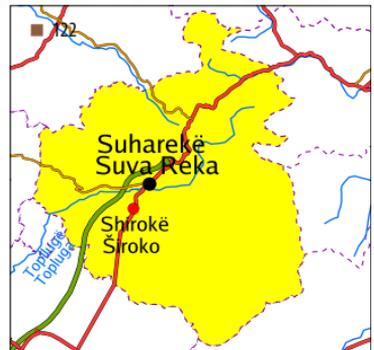


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- Fig. 118. Silver Armlets from Shiroka. (Kosovo Museum).
- Fig. 119. Two handle urn discovered in one of the Shiroka tumulus. (Kosovo Museum).
- Fig.120. Jewelry (arm bracelet) from Shiroka. (Kosovo Museum).
- Fig. 121. Different Pendants; (Kosovo Museum).
- Fig. 121. Fibula discovered in the Shiroka burial mounds (Kosovo Museum).
- Fig. 122. The map of the Shiroka tumuli site setting. Municipality of Suhareka (Theranda).





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Lubozhda

The village of Lubozhda is situated west from the town of Istog and the place is characteristic for the recorded archaeological site known by the toponym *Livadhi*, set only few hundred meters on the left side of the road. Several burial mounds are stretched at this area, typical for the Iron Age, a period of the formation of the Illyrian ethnical and cultural identity, a population that has inhabited the entire Illyrian peninsula (the present Balkans) and beyond.

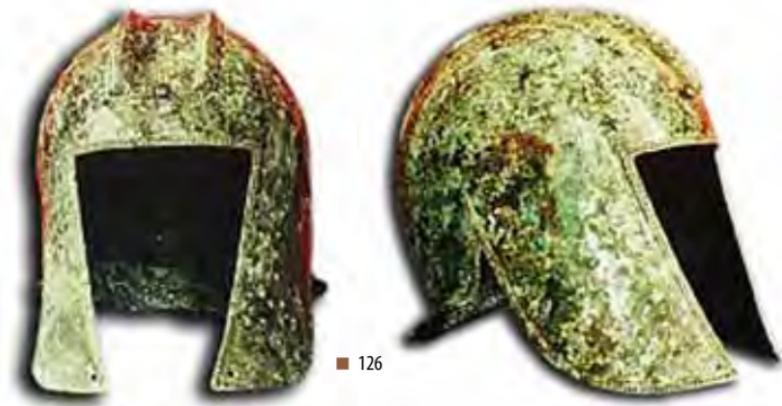
The discovery of a very rich grave inventory within one of the tumulus graves, with a collection of jewelry (silver coated bracelets, etc) clearly illustrates the fact that it did belong to a distinguished dignitary buried at this site. Nevertheless, the grave goods were dated sometime between 6th-5th century BC.

Only 7 km from this site an archaeological site of the Banja e Pejës of the same date is found. Also from the analogy of the composition of the archaeological material, the similarity is evident. Therefore, there must have been a link between both sites or they even belonged to the same entity. The geophysical prospection carried at this area during the 2011, identified several tumulus graves which are not visible from the visual observation of the terrain.



■ 125

- Fig. 123. Silver forged ornamented bracelet (*Kosovo Museum*)
- Fig. 124. Silver forged bracelet with the figure of the two snake heads. (*Kosovo Museum*).
- Fig. 125. The map of the Lubozhda site setting, Istog Municipality.



Banja e Pejës

Ancient archaeological site of Banja e Pejës, situated in the cross-road that links Peja with Istog, is only 12 km northwest from Peja. During the construction period of Onyx hotel in 1974, a typical Illyrian military helmet was discovered accidentally. Apropos, the archaeological rescue excavations commenced at this site that resulted with abundant discovered archeological movable material, while among the most important ones uncovered features and findings are a grave of an important pair that was named by the archeologists as a royal tomb.

The couple's grave was constructed in the rectangular shape base and built with tuff stone plates, most probably extracted from the neighboring quarry. The recorded female grave contained rich grave goods material for example; fibula, omega shape needles, a ring and necklace decorated with geometrical motifs, forged in silver and bronze. On the other hand, the male burial grave contained the grave goods, personal belongings composed of; weapons, silver and bronze jewelry.

The archaeological documentation of these important and valuable findings, among others, offers a picture of the time, characteristic for the social and economical differentiation of individuals or groups. Rich archaeological material discovered at this site belongs to the Late Iron Age, 6th-5th century BC. Surrounding micro region is rich on site and off site findings of different periods, confirming the continuity and occupancy of these most probably due to the great life conditions when having in mind the thermal water sources near this site. On the other hand, the landscape and geostrategic favorable position were ideal for selection of this locality to be inhabited during the long time period.

■ Fig. 126. A typical Illyrian military helm of the 6th-5th century BC. (Frontal and side view). (Kosovo Museum).

■ Fig. 127. The map of the Banja e Pejës site position, Istog (Burim) Municipality.





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- Fig. 128. Hand bracelet forged in silver, discovered at the so called Princely burial grave of the Banja e Pejës. (*Kosovo Museum*).
- Fig. 129. Silver forged ring. (*Kosovo Museum*).
- Fig. 130. Silver styled ring decorated with the double motifs of spirals. (*Kosovo Museum*).
- Fig. 131. Amber tooled beads discovered at the so called Princely burial grave of the Banja e Pejës. (*Kosovo Museum*).
- Fig. 132. Bronze forged buttons discovered at the so called Princely burial grave of the Banja e Pejës. (*Kosovo Museum*).



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Prizren, rare chance discoveries

A distinctive chance finding of a very particular artifact, discovered somewhere in Prizren, sometime during the second part of the 19th century; presents a unique exhibit of a bronze casted statue with a figure of a female athlete on the run. This masterpiece is also known as the *Prizren Maenad*.

The bronze statuette has a height of 11.4 cm and could've been a part of an ornament affixed in a decorative vessel. The statuette is dated between 520-500 BC., probably made during the Archaic Greek Period. Nowadays, this unique artefact belongs to the British Museum, respectively to the Greek & Roman Antiquities Collection, since it was sold in 1876, by an antiquarian trader called Seraphim, believed to be of Armenian origin. The bronze caste statuette is on the 'move' (run), with her body turned to the front, looking down to her right and holding up her skirt in her left hand. She wears a short skirt with fold falling from right shoulder and exposing her right breast, while her hair falls back in parallel waves behind. The Prizren runner (female athlete) is an artefact most likely imported from Greek Sparta.

Another different and rare finding which is almost special as the Prizren runner is the bronze statuette of a seated goat of the 6th century BC. According to the written sources, this figurine was discovered accidentally in 1939, somewhere in Jaglenica, suburban part of Prizren. The figurine measures a length of 6.5 cm and is about 3 cm wide and of 6.5 cm high, with the weight of only 380 grams. The bronze statuette of the sitting goat is exposed at Vranje Museum.

■ Fig. 133. The femail-athlete or the Prizren Menada, picture showing front and back of the statuete (British Museum).

■ Fig. 134. Bronze casted sitting goat, picture showing front and back of the statuete. (Vranje Museum).



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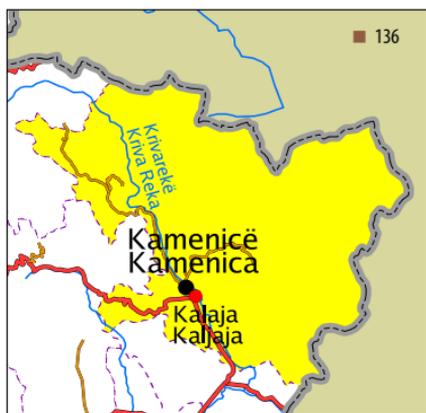


■ 135

Kamenica, Unique accidental discovery

A carved relief showing a funeral procession scene, that reflects a funeral of a man, whose coffin is followed by what appears to be his wife in front of the procession, was accidentally discovered at the Kamenica fort area, respectively at the southern part at the bottom of the fort's hill. Most probably, the engraved funerary scene is a creation modeled during the Classical Period (5th-4th century BC), however, it might be also a late work carried during the Hellenistic Period (4th-1st century BC). Nevertheless, the carved procession scene resembles to a mourning organized rite of mass mourning, practiced in organized group manner following the cortege with grief and sorrow, a ritual still practiced in the mountainous region of Malësia e Gjakovës, which on the other hand, can be treated as the spiritual heritage existing still nowadays. From other point of view, when carefully observing the female mourner's figures of this funerary ceremony, it is clear that they wear dresses that resemble with Illyrian xhubleta gown in the shape of campanile, which might be argued that there is likeness with the typical autochthones woman dress most probably used since the Bronze Age and still worn in the mountainous and distant rural parts inhabited

by Albanians. The engraved (Fragmented) stelea is exhibited at the lapidarium of the Archaeological Park of the Kosovo Museum. As for the Illyrian dress, a typical local modern era xhubleta gown is exhibited at the exhibition room of the Ethnographical Museum 'Emin Gjiku' in Pristina.



■ Fig.135. The Kamenica stelae (*Kosovo Museum*)

■ Fig. 135. The site setting of the discovered stelae at the Kamenica fort.

Roman Period

The Roman period includes the time frame of first four centuries of the first millennium AD. In the first century AD, after the complete conquest of the Illyrian lands, the Romans set their administrative-military system in Dardania, whereas they organized the production enslaved discord relation over the local population. With this, a new gradual or step by step process of Romanization commenced which in fact was only a partial one and did not really change the ethnic structure of the indigenous Dardanian population.

With the implementation of the agrar politics imposed by the roman rulers, the “*ager provincialis*” and “*ager publicus*”, became the property of the roman state. Although part of the local political power remained within the local dignitary, the central government was respected and the orders were obeyed. The new tax collection was set by the new rulers and different obligations were paid by the population, among the taxes, particular taxes were the *tributum soli* and *tributum capiti*. During the first two centuries of the Roman administration of Dardania, the roman rulers followed an expansive and repressive policy toward the autochthonous population, using the indigenous people as slaves and labor force in the rich mining areas, but also in farming and agriculture. On the other hand, the italic veterans gained large estates of lands, fertile areas and were encouraged to get as much slaves needed for the hard work.

Nevertheless, the Roman Peace (*Pax Romana*) established during the reign of the Augustus, created conditions for new economical developments and spread of the Roman civilization in conquered provinces. With the fall of the Dardanian Kingdom under the Roman rule and administration, the Dardanian territory became part of a new established Roman Province of Moesia, which according to the written sources happened between the year 2 and 6 BC. In the year 86 BC, at the time of the rule of the Emperor Domitian (81-96 BC), Dardania became part of a new province known as the Roman Province of the Upper Moesia (*Moesia Superior*). At all events, the historic year of 297 AD, was a very significant year for Dardania and the Dardanians, since, this year marked the creation of the Roman Province of Dardania, a self administrated province, though, within the frame of the Roman

Empire. Despite the existence of the urban centers for example; Scupi, Ulpiana, Naissus, Municipium Dardanorum, etc, the Romanization of Dardania was cursory and superficial, this is also documented through the existence of Dardanian forts and towns, during the entire period of the Roman rule.

Since the second part of the 19th century and until the beginning of the Second World War, different foreign travelers-writers like; Ami Boue, Gilferding, Hahn, MaKenzie, Yrbi, Domashevski, Premestein, Jastrebov, Vulic, Truhelka, Boskovic, Kaniz, Tomaschek, Jiricek, Patsch, Saria, etc, visited these parts mainly investigating and recording the Roman ancientness of the Kosovo territory.

Worth mentioning is the British scholar Sir Artur John Evans, who during his visits in the central Balkans (1875) recorded in his notes, some very precious data regarding the Roman era in Kosovo. Furthermore, Evans, was the first author to pinpoint to the Roman town of the Municipium DD (Dardanorum) situated not far from Mitrovica and also recorded some relevant data for several other archaeological sites or centers, for example; archaeological site of Banjica at Istog, Runjeva, Kačanik, Hani i Elezit, Gushtericë e Ulët, etc.

There is no doubt that the Roman rule brought major changes in the lands inhabited by the Dardanians; they were responsible also for the urbanization of the region, but also about social, cultural, economical and religious changes influenced by the Romans, which was documented thoroughly by the Kosovar pioneer of archaeology, the scientific hard worker of the Kosovo Museum, now late Dr. Emil Čerškov.



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■ Fig. 137. (Avers & revers) Coin discovered in Ulpi-
ana; Date: 1st century AD. The emperor Vespasian
(Archaeological Institute of Kosovo)

■ Fig. 138. (Avers & revers) Medallion discovered
in Ulpiana; Date: 3rd century AD, the Emperor
Probus. (Kosovo Museum).

■ Fig. 139. (Avers & revers) Coin discovered in
Ulpiana; Date: beginning of the 4th century AD,
The Emperor Maximian. (Archaeological Institute
of Kosovo)

■ Fig. 140. (Avers & revers) Solidus-a golden coin,
unknown location of the find place; Date: 6th
century AD, The Emperor Justinian the Great.
(Kosovo Museum).



■ Fig. 141. Fragment of a Roman terra sigillata from Ulpiana



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Municipium D.D. ('Dardanorum')

The archaeological site of Municipium DD (Dardanorum) is situated in the northern part of Kosovo, located approximately 27 kilometres north of Mitrovica, in the Municipality of Leposavić, localized in the village of Socanica. In one side, the site is positioned in an excellent geographical place, set between the Iber and Socanica river flow and on the other side, surrounded by Rogozna and Kopaonik mountains. The surrounding zone used to be rich in precious metals (gold and silver), therefore, due to these natural resources, the occupancy grows from a small settlement to a one of the most important ancient urban centres, very active during the roman ruling. When consulting the written sources and the ancient literature, or even the roman itineraries, there is not even one written word in regard to the sites existence. Nevertheless, the settlement ancient occupation was evidenced due to the systematic research and investigations, carried out during the second part of the fifties and sixties of the past centuries. Archaeological excavations were carried in the eastern part of the settlement, whereas, a roman forum, horrea, urban basilica, features of the roman bath, details of auxiliary objects and the northern cemetery, were discovered. The discovered archaeological material, the overall results, clearly indicate and illustrate the fact that, the Municipium DD, primarily existed as a prehistoric settlement, continued to develop and change to become a typical ancient roman town during the period from the last decades of the 1st century, until the first part of the 4th century AD. The settlement had all characteristics of a roman town. The site stretches in approximately 30 hectares.



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- Fig. 141. View of the Municipium DD.
- Fig. 142. Fibulae discovered in Municipium DD. (Kosovo Museum).
- Fig. 143. Satellite picture of the Municipium DD.
- Fig. 144. The site setting of the Municipium DD.



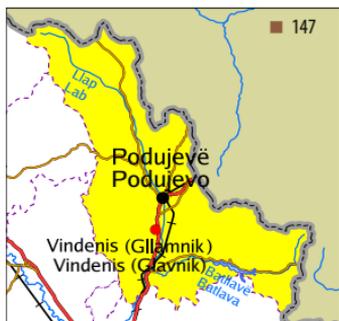
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Vindenis

Among three road stations that were constructed in Dardania during the Roman Period, Statio Vindenis, is one of the identified stations. This archaeological site is set at the area of the village of Glavnik, Municipality of Podujeva (Besiana). The site is located approximately 5km south, southeast from Podujeva. The ancient Via Lissus-Naissus (Lezha-Nish) roman road was a diagonal route, connecting the central Balkans region with the Adriatic coast, which passed through Vindenis. The settlement and roman road station of Vindenis are stretched on the right bank of Llap River vicinity, measuring an area of more or less of 15-20 hectares. During the eighties of the last century, systematic archaeological excavations carried out at this site, uncovered an area in total of 550 m². Among recorded archaeological findings and features here, the most characteristic ones are the grave burials with the grave goods. The burial rites documented here, tell us about the practise of cremation and inhumation burial rites. Besides, a few tons heavy marble sarcophagus was discovered, most probably especially prepared for a distinguished person of high economical, social and political status. Nonetheless, archaeological investigations identified several dwellings, and in particular a distinguished discovery of a floor mosaic composed with geometrical motifs, at the central part of the mosaic, the figural display panel of the Orpheus, makes this mosaic a special discovery, A special finding discovered at this site, is a gold wedding ring (fig. 149) with a cameo which clearly indicates shaking of the right hands (*dextrarum iunction*), which means an agreement but also symbolizes loyalty and friendship. Geophysical, geomagnetic surveys or prospection's conducted at this locality in 2008 and 2011, in an area of at least 11 hectares of this important archaeological site, identified traces of remains of different objects that at the first impression, resemble to a military field garrison, most probably stationed there to protect the surrounding area and the road station. The archaeological site of Vindenis, was active during the entire period of the roman rule as well as during the late antiquity.



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- Fig. 145. The Mosaic of Orpheus from Vindenis. (KM)
- Fig.146. Marble sarcophagus discovered in Videnis. (KM)
- Fig. 147. The site setting of the Vindenis.
- Fig. 148. Glass jar (KM)
- fig.149. Golden ring from Vindenis (KM).



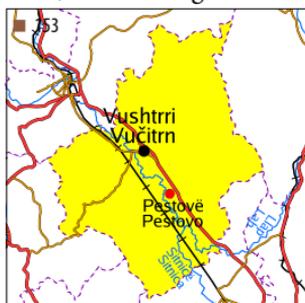
Pestova

Pestova village is located in the Municipality of Vushtri, on the left side, stretched along the Prishtina-Mitrovica road, more or less 4 km from Vushtri. The area is known for a very fertile agricultural land, productive even in present days. During the work carried out in 2005 in Pestova, accidentally some wall contours were discovered. Therefore, a rescue excavation was initiated, which resulted with interesting archaeological findings. On this occasion, remains of a building, ruins of a *villae rusticae* were partially unearthed. The villas are typical roman houses set in the countryside and far from the urban centres. As a general rule, villas are usually one floor houses, with atrium or central garden.



According to the roman architecture rules, villas were complex built structures composed of several accompanied rooms, baths or *termae* and drinkable water deposits. The Pestova villa rustica had a corridor. Villas in the roman culture apprehend a luxury house; in the towns they are known as *villae urbanae*, whereas in the countryside they are known as *villae rusticae*, and served as resting houses or places for relaxation for the wealthy and powerful roman families. Villas are consisted of master's house and the Pestova villa most likely belonged to latifondist family, presumably to a very distinguished and rich Furi or Ponti family members from the ancient site of Ulpiana. Parts of villa complex usually are stables for the domestic animals, workshops and storehouses. When analysing the ancient map *Tabula Imperii Romani*, and the site setting of the Pestova villa, it can be argued that most likely, the ancient rout that connected Ulpiana with the ancient town of the Municipium DD, passed close or nearby this interesting archaeological site.

- Fig. 150. Elevated view of the villa's corridor. (KAI, 2005)
- Fig. 151. View of the central part of the villa. (KAI, 2005)
- Fig. 152. View of the main entrance of the villa rustica discovered in Pestova. (KAI, 2005)
- Fig. 153. The site setting of Pestova





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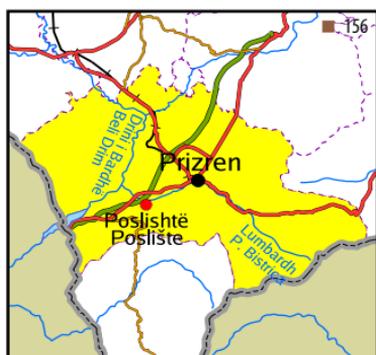


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Poslishta

During the construction of the highway segment between Prizren and Vërmica in 2010, approximately 1 kilometre south of the multilayer archaeological site of Vlashnje, on the left side of this road segment, respectively, 150 m from the road that leads toward the Poslishte village, rescue excavations were carried out at this location in an earlier known unidentified site of roman era.

Nevertheless, based on the discovered archaeological material, the archaeological excavations proved existence of the remains of a roman road station, set along the ancient road *Via Lissus-Naissus*. Aside from the discovered movable archaeological material, within this archaeological complex, a *Mansio* (road hostel/guesthouse) with several secondary rooms with a conspicuous *Thermae* (roman bath) were recorded. Most likely, as part of the roman road station a building known as *Mutatio* or horse exchange station was part of this complex. While, it is known that along the important roman roads, there were station stables that served to offer fresh horses a service that was offered at each road station along the roman roads during roman period.



- Fig. 154. View of the discovered roman bath in Poslishte. (KAI, 2010)
- Fig. 155. View of the stationary rooms of a mansio (hostel) (KAI, 2010)
- Fig. 156. The site setting of the Poslishte roman road station.



■ 157 ■ 158

Staradran

Staradran village is situated south-southwest from the town of Istog. In the Mavraj neighbourhood of the village, in the kulla (tower) of the Etem Beqë Mavraj family, just above the entrance, two immured fragments of the epigraphic monuments are located. These two inscribed and carved marble slabs are immured in the archway of the main gate of the kulla. One of the carved marble slab (fig.157) measures 17 x 23,5 cm, with inscribed letters measuring a height of 4 cm, with the short text of the name of roman deity Mercury and the dedicator Ulp(ius) Viat(or) engraved. The Mercury according to the roman mythology was attributed to the role of the deity of trade and messenger of gods, whose cult was widely worshiped all over the ancient Dardanian territory.

The second spolium fragment (fig.158) is also a white marble carved slab measuring 23 x 15 cm. Both fragments were most likely parts of an altar and were carved during the roman period (2nd-3rd century AD). When referring to the local oral history, both fragments were taken from the Banjica village in the municipality of Istog, to be used for decoration of the kulla (tower) reconstruction which most likely occurred during 1905-1907.

- Fig. 157. Picture of the immured marble slab spolium dedicated to the deity of Mercury.
- Fig.158. Picture of the marble slab fragment immured above the archway of the kulla.
- Fig. 159. The map showing the setting of the Staradran village, respectively the site location of the kulla (tower) where the roman spolium (reused material) is immured.





■ 160

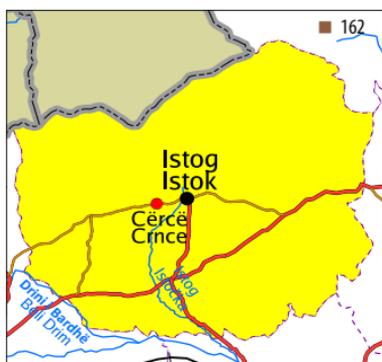


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Cerce

At the village of Cerca, at the verges of the Mokna Mountains, around 2 km west from the town of Istog, during the field work carried out at the location of “*Arat e njoma*”, accidentally a unique artefact was discovered known as *Laterculus*, an inscribed tile, respectively, a clay-tablet. The inscription carved in the Cerca laterculus, illustrates the fact that somewhere in the vicinity of the discovered place, a roman bath (*thermae*) was build and most probably, accordingly, based on the inscription text, the bath was named *Labanon*. The identified archaeological site at this location is a field mainly used for the agricultural purposes, stretched in approximately of 4-5 hectares, situated around 1 km from the Istog “Trofta” fish restaurant.

At this area, there is also a site known by the toponomy ‘*Kisha e vjetër*’ (the old church), set in an area of around 200 square meters, whereas, at the central part of this site, is a mound shaped underneath structure, clearly indicative for traces of an unearthed monument. The rich archaeological material found here on the surface like; tiles, foundation stones used for wall construction, fragments of pottery, etc., all dated in Late Antique period. According to the locals, at the edge of the Mountains, there is also another old Illyrian church, most probably of the early Christian period.



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- Fig. 160. View of the archaeological site. (KAI)
- Fig. 161. The inscribed Cerca laterculus tile tablet. (KAI)
- Fig. 162. The map location of the Cerca archaeological site, Istog Municipality.

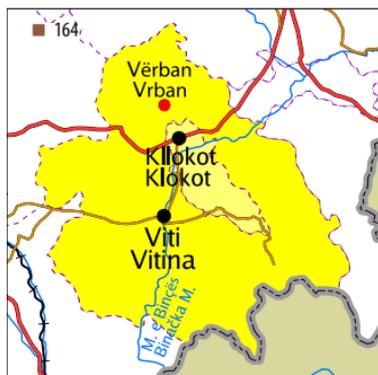


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Kllokot-Vërban

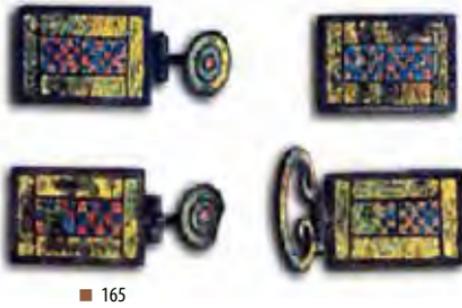
Recorded traces of the Vërban archaeological site, inform us a lot about site selection for the settlement building during the roman times. The site is set close to Banja e Kllokotit, (Kllokot Springs) in an alluvial terrace stretched along the Morava river flow, an area known for the fertile land and near the warm thermal mineral waters spring.

One of the most interesting accidental archaeological discoveries is a sculpture found near the Banja e Kllokotit, a masterpiece of the Dardanian art, presenting an example of the distinguished autochthonous sculpturing art, this reflection of advanced artistic creation of the indigenous population. It is sculptured in qualitative marble, and reflects a figure of a high-toned Dardanian lady.



■ Fig. 163. Marble bust of a Dardanian lady.(MK)

■ Fig. 164. The site location of the Vërban roman site.



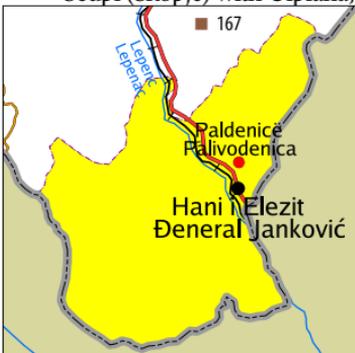
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Paldenica

Around 150 m on the left side of the Pristina-Skopje road, at the entrance of the village of Paldenica, above a hill which lays west from the village, on a terrain configuration of a shape of a horse, that has a broader overview of wider area of Lepenc gorge and the town of Hani i Elezit, an amount of surface visible remains of roman pottery and bricks/tiles has been recorded in the past. Nevertheless, in 1967, at the area situated in the vicinity of the left river shore of Lepenc, couple of meters along the river bank stretched toward the Hani i Elezit, a roman period necropolis was recorded. Numerous, movable archaeological material was collected and documented at this recognisance occasion, where a bronze casted belt decorated with glass pasta in the millefiori technique was found (a glasswork technique which produces distinctive decorative patterns on glassware). The archaeological material dates chronologically sometime from the 2nd up to 3rd century AD, this a time period of the construction of necropolis of Paldenica. On the other hand, during the agricultural work carried out at the other side located on a hill part in 1995, a marble engraved and inscribed stele of the roman date was accidentally discovered (2nd- 3rd century AD). The stele has the following dimensions: 160 X 97 X 17,5 cm. Moreover, in another occasion, two bases for columns were discovered at the same place. Most likely, the site was a roman date settlement and when considering the surrounding terrain configuration, presumably, if investigated further, traces of a roman road station might be found somewhere close; it can be assumed since the road that linked ancient Scupi (Skopje) with Ulpiana, have passed through these parts.



- Fig. 165. The belt decorated in millefiori technique discovered in Paldenica (*Kosovo Museum*).
- Fig. 166. Roman stele discovered in Paldenica.
- Fig. 167. The site location of the Paldenica archaeological site.

Municipium Ulpiana

The Roman and Byzantine site of Ulpiana is without a doubt one of the most interesting archaeological centres of Kosovo and the entire Illyrian peninsula. The setting of the site close to a rich mining area known for extraction of the precious metals, stretched in a fertile low land and imposing picturesque surroundings while on the other hand, the exceptionally key geostrategic position sited close to the ancient crossroads that linked east with west, where dominant factors for the foundation, development and existence through centuries. During the Roman era, Ulpiana was one of the most active and frequented centers connecting Constantinople with Rome, and close to the town the crossroad connecting the Adriatic with the Aegean coasts, even indirectly with the Black Sea. Furthermore, the existence of the ancient communication route Via Lissus-Naissus is known, land communication networks that met close to Ulpiana. The earliest forms of the occupation and human activity and civilization, witness the existence since the prehistoric period, but worth mentioning is the period known by the jargon of the archaeologists as the Bronze and Iron Ages, also known as the Dardanian Ancientness. Nevertheless, the first forms of an urban centre recorded in Ulpiana, date to the beginning of the Roman rule, which oc-



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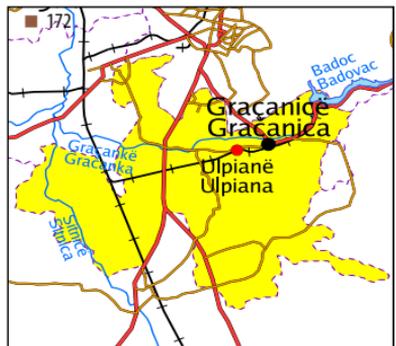
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■ 171



- Fig. 168. Greek altar with the inscription Apoloneus Menelaus dedicated to the deity of Zeus. (MK)
- Fig. 169. Marble head of the 'Actor'. (MK)
- Fig. 170. Oil lamp from the Roman Period. (KIMP)
- Fig. 171. the bronze casted statuette of the Deity 'Mercury', discovered in Ulpiana. (MK)
- Fig. 172. The site setting of the Ulpiana.
- Fig. 173. The site setting and the location of the archaeological unearthed monuments discovered in Ulpiana.



■ 173

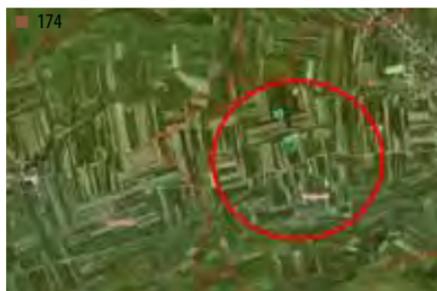
curred at the first century AD. With the Romans settlers, Ulpiana developed from a small ancient Dardan concentrated Opidum; to a wide spread territorium with all attributes of a typical roman town organisation. In regard to this matter, it is believed that Ulpiana was established as a roman municipium in 169 AD (Municipium Ulpianum). Nonetheless, Ulpiana achieved its heights peak of development during the 3rd and 4th century; a period when it became a very important political, economical, cultural centre of a wider area of waste territory of the Dardania, but also become the crucial centre for the expansion of the ancient civilization in this region. The roman town of Ulpiana during this period was ascribed as the Municipium Ulpiana Splendissima – the Splendid Municipium of Ulpiana, characterized with road nets, orthogonal construction system, water supply, drainage, houses, buildings and various other public, sacral, profane and utilitarian buildings. In addition, the Municipium of Ulpiana was a very important trading centre of either metallurgical, artisans or agricultural goods and merchandise for at least first five centuries of the first millennium and especially during the rule of the Byzantine emperor Justinian the Great in the 6th century AD; time when Ulpiana was rebuilt and renamed to Justiniana Secunda. Since the second part of the past century and onward, the ancient town of Ulpiana has been in continuity a study area through the loupe and pickaxe of either local or foreign archaeologists that contributed until present day with the discovery of few cult and sacral monuments, basilica, necropolis, as well as parts of the ramparts with watchtowers, castrum-roman military garrison and hundreds of movable fragments/artefacts, different in form, material and use, but as well as human remains, architectural structures and elements, all testimony of the cultural material very important for the scientific field of archaeology.

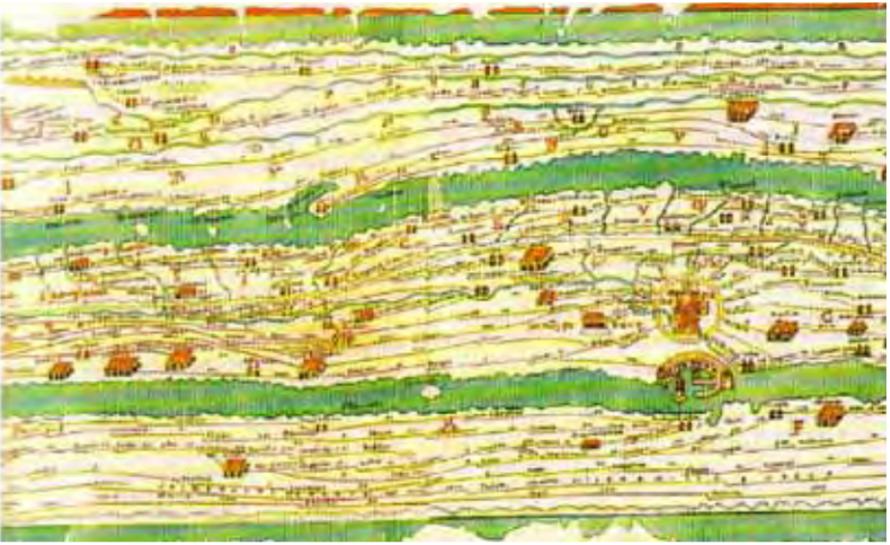
The gathered data was partially studied and is under the process of systematic evaluation from various specialists of different scientific disciplines that all together contribute for the further update of the archaeological data. Since our century is the one of technological and scientific innovations, the archaeological site of Ulpiana went through elaborate research studies with highly sophisticated investigative devices, which totally are non intrusive methods of survey examination.

Thanking the cooperation, between the German Archaeological Institute, and the Archaeological Institute of Kosovo, have jointly participated in geophysical prospection with the advance survey/recording methods, for example; Fluxgate Magnetometer, Gradiometer, georadar connected with GIS, surveying around 50 hectares of land with archaeological potential within the Ulpiana area.

Besides the scientific character, the underneath earth recording will aid in the future pacifications and development plans for this archaeological site. But even more, the site will benefit also for the management plan for compilation of the development plans for the promotion of the cultural heritage known in the developed countries as archaeotourism (archaeological tourism), which as a precondition requires the setting of the tourist infrastructure at the archaeological parks. On the other hand, these advanced methods and techniques will help on the determination of the extent, character and nature of Ulpiana, when having in mind that this is a multilayer site.

- Fig.174. Orthofoto of the Ulpiana area.
- Fig. 175. View of the Ulpiana basilicas' nárthex.
- Fig. 176. View of the basilicas apse.
- Fig. 177. View of the several excavated trenches in Ulpiana. (Picture taken in 2011).



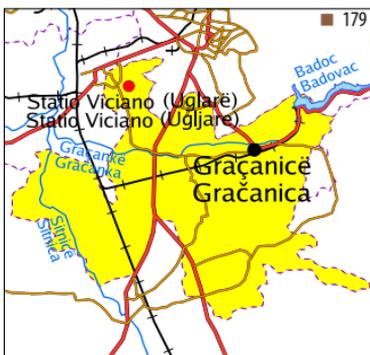


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Uglar-*Statio Viciano*

The village of Uglar is situated in the north, northwest part of the new municipality of Gračanica. There are relevant indications that might pinpoint the site setting of the ancient road station *Viciano*, a stopping point for the caravans that circulated in one of the most important trans-Illyrian roads, the Via Lissus-Naissus route, that started from the Adriatic coast, respectively from Lezha, all the way through the Drini i Bardhë river valley, crossed diagonally through ancient Dardania (present Kosovo) to continue further to Nish. The Station Viciano, is recorded in the ‘*Tabula Peutingeriana*’ map, this medieval (15th century) map, which was a copy of a 3rd century itinerary roman map.

The ancient road passed near the ancient centre of Municipium Ulpiana, that connected it with other roman towns, particularly with the mining centres rich with precious minerals, very valuable item for the wellbeing of the Roman Empire for the first centuries of the first millennium.



■ Fig. 178. *Tabula Peutingeriana*

■ Fig. 179. The map of the Uglare site, is believed to be situated the Viciano rod station.



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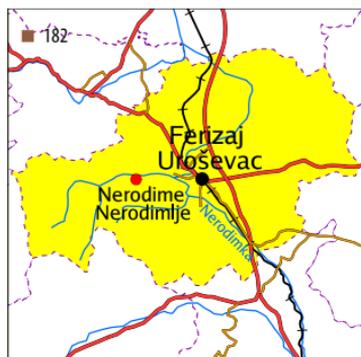


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Nerodime e Poshtme

In 1988, at the village of Nerodime e Poshtme, situated west from the city of Ferizaj, several archaeological trenches were investigated at this location, close to the orthodox cemetery. The trial trenches resulted with a discovery of a villa complex that most likely is constructed during the Late Antique period. The villa was built with an atrium and polychrome floor mosaic, with geometrical and figural motives. According to the researches, the first phase is most probably constructed during the 4th century AD, and rebuilding/reconstruction were presumably conducted during the 5th and 6th century AD. The discovered floor mosaic was set within a rectangular room and also had an apse, which most likely served as a triclinium (a dining room).

Based on the floor mosaic composition discovered at this site and when comparing, respectively looking the analogy of the composition style and construction with the assembled floor mosaic of the Heraclea Lyncestis martyrium in Macedonia, but also similarly the floor mosaic composition of the Lin Basilica martyrium in Albania, the resemblance of the both sites with the Nerodime mosaic is evident, which reflects an masterpiece of an great artist-master of that time.



- Fig. 180. Detail of the Nerodime mosaic.
- Fig. 181. Fragmented frame of the Nerodime mosaic.
- Fig. 182. The site map of the Nerodime e Poshtme.

Çifllak

The roman site of Çifllak is situated near the Drini i Bardhë river stream, respectively on the left side not far from the river shore. Archaeological researches carried at the Çifllak area during the first decade of the first millennium, resulted with the discovery of the remains of a roman bath complex, with wide dimensions, whereas a pool has been unearthed and documented. Rich and abundant archaeological material discovered at this site informs us about the local earthenware production and the imported terra sigillata. Besides, metal tools, coins, glass jars and architectonic structures various artefacts for everyday use have been unearthed at this site. When looked from the chronological aspect, the roman bath is dated between the 2nd and 4th century AD. Nonetheless, archaeologist who have excavated this site, have determined two phases of construction and reconstruction.

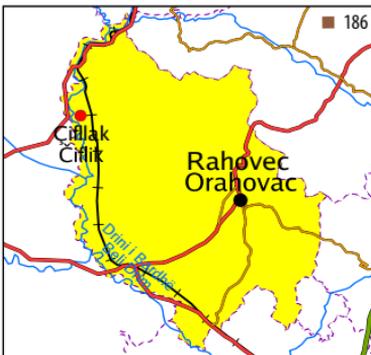


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■ Fig. 183. Capital for a column or pilaster discovered in Çifllak. (MK)

■ Fig.184. View of the excavated trench.

■ Fig. 185. Working tools discovered in Çifllak. (MK)

■ Fig. 186. Map of the Çifllak site setting.



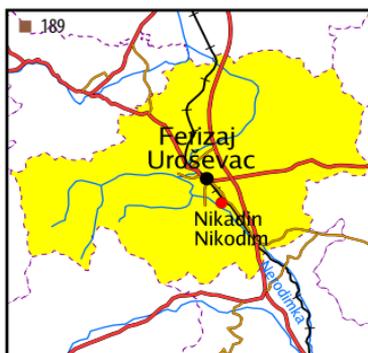
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Nikadin

The Nikadin village, nowadays a suburban part of the town of Ferizaj, is situated only 2 kilometres south from the town, sited in a spacious and fertile countryside. During the 60s of the last century, superficial traces of a roman villa complex have been recorded here. Nevertheless, during gardening carried out in front of a house, accidentally a remarkable sarcophagus lid was unearthed, a rare and unique for the region of Kosovo. A sarcophagus is a funeral receptacle for a corpse, most commonly carved from marble or limestone. The sarcophagus lid discovered here is carved in marbled limestone in the shape of a house roof and decorated on the sides with anthropomorphic human bust, while on the front of the lid, decorated with floral motifs. The sarcophagus lid was carved during the end of the 3rd or the beginning of the 4th century AD. The accidental discovery of the lid, lead towards the rescue excavation investigation (2007) carried out in form of trial trenches. The results of this archaeological research were unexpected, while a small unknown early Christian church (4th -6th century AD) was unearthed (though very damaged). Taking into account that, the church was constructed by stones bonded with lime mortar, but the most interesting discoveries were the spolia (the re-use of earlier building material or decorative sculpture on new monuments) of the roman date.



- Fig. 187. Frontal view of the sarcophagus lid from Nikadin.
- Fig. 188. Side view of the sarcophagus lid from Nikadin.
- Fig. 189. The Nikadin site setting map.



The Early Christian Basilica of Ulpiana - Justiniana Secunda

The Late Antique Period and Medieval Period

The Late Antique Period, respectively known also as the Early Byzantine Period, in Kosovo marks the time frame from the rule of the Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337 AD), respectively during the 4th, 5th and 6th century AD; a time period which was perceived by historians to describe the transitory phase from antiquity to medieval. One of the most distinguished features of the 'Late Antiquity' was the centralization of power into the emperors hands, division of the military from civil administration, but on top of that, this period is related with the crises in ancient production system and with a decline of the Roman Empire. Nonetheless, besides the inner crises, the empire was confronted also with barbarian invasions. In regard to this period that is entwisted between innovations and tradition, the present day territory of Kosovo, which used to be the central part of the ancient Dardania, passes through some changes, transformations and developments in economical, social, cultural, religious and political-administrative aspect, which made an impact on future evolution of this area. Furthermore, the novelty of this epoch was the consolidation of the Christianity and the bloom of the Christian art and architecture, a characteristic for combination of tradition and innovation. Therefore, the construction architecture of this time is known by archaeologists, architects and art historians as the early Christian period architecture. On the other hand, the ancient written sources, archived church written sources, but even the oral histories in the form of myths, legends or local toponomy of the archaeology site locations, stored in the collective memory of the different parts of the Kosovo inhabitancy, have offered and will provide very important data that is used in synthesised form to provide a general overview of either common or individual extraordinary rich archaeological heritage, not only

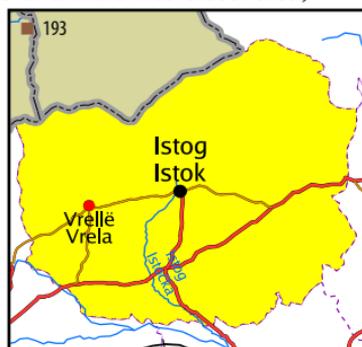
for the region but even wider, including the southeast Europe. Yet, Kosovo should not be treated anymore as Terra Incognita (Latin: unknown land), but contrariwise, based on the archaeological documentation, this aided by the auxiliary sciences and relevant scientific disciplines, reflect a very advanced civilization, different and even cosmopolite developments in the ancientness. The written sources, besides tangible ones, complement the facts on the occupation and continuative presence of the autochthonous population, which was evidenced with the creation of the Dardanian Kingdom, 4th-1st century BC and later with the constitution of the Roman Province of Dardania in 297 AD; established by the Emperor Diocletian (284-305 AD) of Illyrian origin. The Late Antique period and the Early Medieval period, where a periods with an argued presence of a large number of toponomies like for example; gjytet (old town), gradishtë (fortes), gradinë (stronghold), kala (castle), kullë (tower), fortesë (fortification), etc. Furthermore, these toponomies specifically indicate the fortified settlements set on the hills and fortified with ramparts and documented across Kosovo during the systematic archaeological surveys, reconnaissance and trial trenches, carried in the past, since the second part of the last century and continued up to the present days. When refereeing to the written sources of the ancient author Procopius of Caesarea, in his writings, *De Adificiis* ('on the buildings'), it is clearly stated that the emperor Justinian the Great (527-565 AD) of the Dardanian origin, initiated an 'elaborated' construction and reconstruction programme within and around the Province of Dardania, building 8 new and refortifying 61 existing strongholds, which were used also during the Medieval period.



Vrella

The village of Vrella is situated approximately 7 km west from the town of Istog. Archaeological excavations conducted here in 2010, unearthed remains and foundations of a church with small dimensions, typical for the early Christian period (4th-6th century AD). Close to the church, a necropolis is set that is most probably linked to the settlement sited in the upper part of the hill.

Excavations carried in the church, revealed a large type of crypt grave, measuring: 2.80m in length, 1.40m in width and 1.40m in height, constructed in the shape of a semicircular arch or vault. The grave is oriented east-west and at the western side a small entry gate of 0.6m, in height, with an archway has been recorded. Nonetheless, the crypt-grave was constructed with tuff stones, and what is interesting, inside the unearthed grave, intact mortal remains of a male was discovered, buried according to the Christian rites.



- Fig. 190. View of the crypt-grave inside the small church (chapel) of Vrella.
- Fig. 191. View of the arched vault of the crypt-grave.
- Fig. 192. Mortar human remains as discovered in situ within a grave at the Vrella.
- Fig. 193. Map location of the Vrella site setting.



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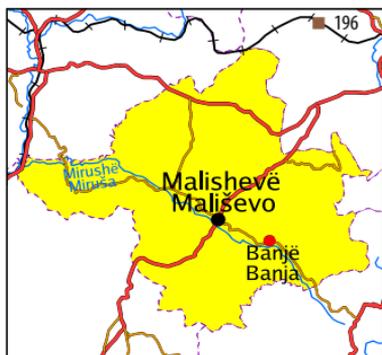
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Banja e Malishevës

At the village of Banja e Malishevës, situated southeast from the town of Malisheva, on the left side of the Mirusha river shore, an archaeological site known by the toponymy 'Trojet e Vjetra' is found. This archaeological site has a character of a burial mound (tumulus) and was erected during the Iron Age, but reused during the Early Medieval period.

Investigations, respectively archaeological excavations were carried out at this location in 2005, which resulted with confirmation of graves identification, constructed with stone slabs and very rich with grave goods. Among the most important findings, Early Medieval jewelry made of bronze like rings, bracelets, and necklaces with a symbol of Christian crosses were recorded and documented.

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- Fig. 194. View of the partial excavation at the Banja e Malishevës burial mound.
- Fig. 195. Bronze ring with inscription and below cross pendants. (MK)
- Fig. 196. The Banja e Malishevës site location.
- Fig. 197. Aerial picture of the Banja e Malishevës site.

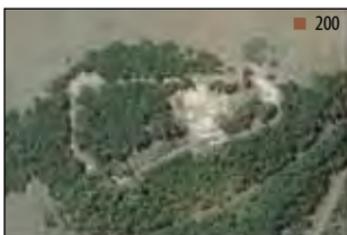


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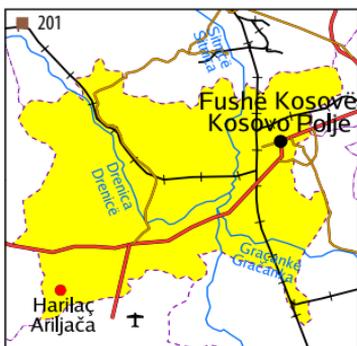
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Harilaq Fortress

The Harilaq fortress/castle (4th-6th century AD), is situated on top of the hill known by the local toponymy as the *Gradina e Harilaqit*, set in an eroded and dominant position, west from the Harilaq village. The fortress is located in an altitude of maximum 766 meters above the sea level, and is approximately sited 9 km southeast from the town of Fushë Kosova and only 2 kilometers west from Pristina International Airport 'Adem Jashari'. The total surface of the fortress, also counting along the circular walls/ ramparts, measures around 1.3 hectares of the inner space of the stronghold. The Archaeological excavations at this site were conducted in several seasons, commencing in 2005 and were carried out systematically until 2009. Nonetheless, several conservations and consolidations of the circuit walls were done in order to preserve the remains. During the archaeological five seasons's works, numerous remains and foundations of sacral, profane and utilitarian buildings were discovered. In regard, the entire outer sides of the rampart with towers at the axes were unearthed, as well as a church with three naves and a Sankrity are discovered, but also two almost identical structures in a rounded shape of an unknown sacral complex has been uncovered, as well. On the other hand, vast movable archaeological material composed of; metal made working tools, jewelry, coins, bricks, glass fragments and architectural structures, all clear indications that pinpoint to the Late Antique date and especially typical for the Justinian Period. Also, at this fortress traces of prehistoric periods have been evidenced, especially emphasizing the metal periods, but it continued to exist all through antiquity and up to the Medieval Period.



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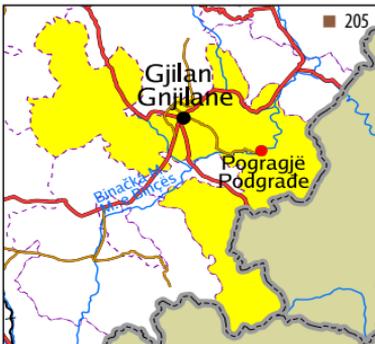
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- Fig. 198. View of the Harilaq hill (Gradina).
- Fig. 199. View of several trenches inside the fortress.
- Fig. 200. Aerial picture of the Harilaq fortress site setting
- Fig. 201. The Harilaq fortress site setting.

Pogragja Fortress

The fortress of Pogragja is situated at the area of the Pogragja village, positioned at the Llapushnica gorge, set on a low hill of 567 meters above sea level. The fortress is located around 10 kilometers southwest from the town of Gjilan and below the Pogragja hill flows the river of Morava e Binçës. The plan of the citadel of the Pogragja fortress has a shape of irregular pentagonal, while, the southern wall of the central tower served as a fortifying wall for the citadel. On the highest part, remains of a watchtower are still visible, whose walls are partially preserved up to ten meters height. In regard, the tower watch is constructed in rectangular form measuring 8 m by 8 m. Likewise, at the corners of the ramparts, smaller dimension towers are set. In the western, northern and northeastern angles of the fortification walls, the small towers go up to four meters height.

The inner space of the fortification has a total area of approximately 1.2 hectares and it is typical construction for the period of the Emperor Justinian the Great (6th century AD), respectively, the Pogragja fortress takes part in the frame of the net fortifications erected in Dardania during the end of the Late Antiquity.

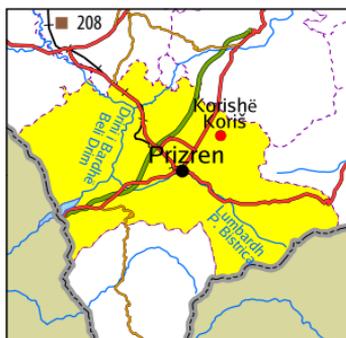


- Fig. 202. Existing walls of the Pogragja fortress citadel.
- Fig. 203. Parts of the stairs inside the circuit walls of the fortress.
- Fig. 204. View from distance of the Pogragja fortress
- Fig. 205. The site setting of the Pogragja fortress

Korisha Fortress with The Early Christian Church

The archaeological excavations conducted in two seasons; 2002 and 2004 at the Korisha fortress located at the area known by the toponymy as the 'Gralishta' hill, revealed contours and documented the plan of an early Christian church of the 6th century AD. The Korisha early Christian church which is located inside the fortress has an apse oriented toward the east. Inside the church, traces of a cintron are constructed in the form of stairs and in the shape of trapeze. Within the altar area of the church parts of the banisters were documented. The movable archaeological material, abundant and diverse findings were recorded here, which, besides the Late Antique date, the fragments of pottery of the Middle Bronze Age were evidenced also, which most probably are related with the Bronze Age site situated only few hundred meters northeast from the fortress. Nonetheless, many amphoras's, pithos, jars, jugs, etc. were discovered, of the Late Antique date, which confirms occupancy of the fortress and the church during the 4th-6th century AD.

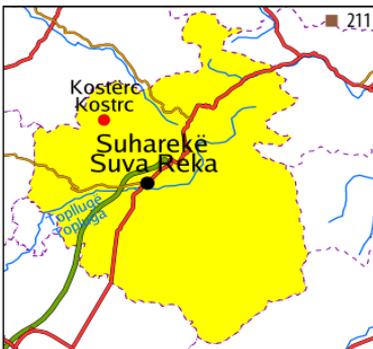
- Fig. 206. View from the distance of the Korisha fortress.
- Fig. 207. Picture taken from the east, showing the early Christian church set inside the Korisha fortress.
- Fig. 208. The Korisha fortress site setting.



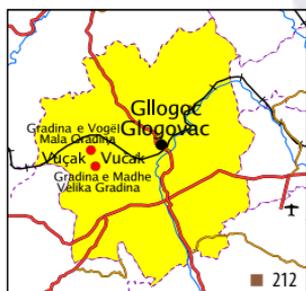


Kasterc Fortress

The archaeological site, respectively the fortification of the Kasterc, positioned more or less 12 kilometers northwest from the town of Suhareka (Theranda), witnessed to be a multilayer archaeological center that continued to exist from the prehistoric times, more precisely, from a Copper Age as a fortified settlement and then reused and rebuilt into a stronghold during the reign of the emperor Justinian. The site was reused as a necropolis during the medieval period. The fortress area was under three archaeological researches; in 1986, trial trenches were carried out here, reflecting a general overview of this site. Archaeological investigations continued in 2010 and again in 2011, discovering an area of just about 500 square meters, these excavations brought to light an early Christian church and other exclusive movable archaeological material composed of; iron working tools, earthen ware, jewelry, earrings, bracelets, coins, etc.



- Fig. 209. View from the distance showing the Hisar of Kasterc.
- Fig. 210. Orthophoto of the Hisari i Kastercit fortress.
- Fig. 211. The Hisari i Kastercit fortress site setting.



■ Fig. 212. The site setting of the Vuçak fortress.
 ■ Fig.213. View of the hill, respectively the Vuçak fortress setting.

Vuçak Fortress

At the village of Vuçak, which is located at the verge of the Kasmaç Mountain, situated around 12 km southwest from the town of Drenas, placed in a very dominant position, traces of ruins that follow the terrain configuration of the hill are observable. In fact, there are two forts, one known as the *Gjyteti i Madh* and *Gjyteti i Vogël* (big fort and small fort). The collected and recorded archaeological material, confirm human activity since prehistoric up to the Medieval period. Nonetheless, this Fortress was typical for the period of the Late Antiquity as it served as a defense system for the local population.

Stroc Fortress

The village of Stroc is known for the existence of a fortress set at the *Gradina* hill, a fortress which was used in continuity since prehistoric, Late Antiquity and Early Medieval period. Traces of the walls set in the shape of the cascades which incline up to the top of the hill, are noticeable at the *Gradina* hillside. Even in the present days, traces of the forts towers and ramparts are visible, measuring up to two meters wide walls. Based on the terrain configuration and evidenced remains, presumable at this location, in the past, a cult object used to exist and served to the local population.

■ Fig. 214. Site setting of the Stroc fortress.
 ■ Fig.215. View of the hill, respectively the Stroc fortress setting.





■ Fig. 216. The site setting of the Llapushnik fortress.

■ Fig. 217. View of the Llapushnik fortress.

Llapushnik Fortress

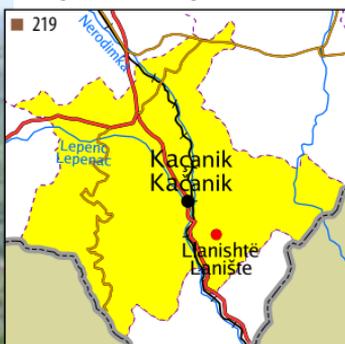
The Llapushnik fortress is situated at the Mountainous area of Drenica region, set close to the Llapushnik outfall, located about 10 km southwest from the town of Drenas. The Llapushnik fortress was characterized with a stronghold fortification measuring 200 with 300 meters. The circuit defense walls were up to 2 meters wide and guarded by side towers. The “fortress tower” measured 10 x 10 meters, and around the site, Late Antique tiles are scattered all over the place.

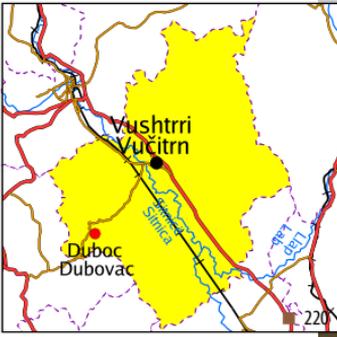
Llanishta Fortress

Around 1km south from Kaçanik, at the decreased area up to maximum 684 meters above the sea level, at the site known as the ‘*Vranjak*’ remains of a fortress have been recorded, whereas, a wall of up to 1.7 m wide and 2.5-3m height was recorded. The wall was constructed by the use of local stones bonded with lime mortar and positioned above the natural rocks. Whereas, up in the hill, the wall of the fortress is preserved in line of 50-60 m length, that follows the contours of the hill. The fortress communicates through a slope with the Llanishta village.

■ Fig. 218. Fragmented wall of the fortress.

■ 218 ■ Fig.219 The site setting of the Llanishta fortress.





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■ Fig. 220. The site setting of the Dubovac fortress

■ Fig.221. View of the Dubovac hill, respectively the fortress location.

Duboc Fortress

From the archaeological aspect, the Dubovac fortress is situated above the Çečan, part of the Çiçavica mountain chain, not far from the town of Vushtri, which illustrates the fact that Late Antique fortifications were built not far from the ancient urban settlements. The rampart walls that encircle the fort, put into frame remains and traces of buildings and premises which are not yet unearthed.

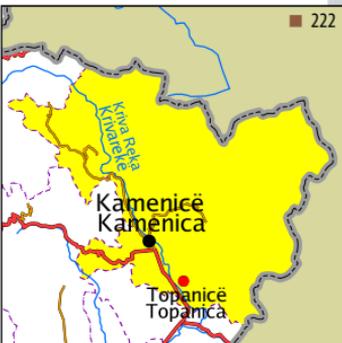
Topanica Fortress

The Topanica fortress is situated around 50 meters north on the left side of the Topanica-Domorovc road. The fortress is located at the site place known by the name 'Te Popovca'. According to the earlier given data, during agricultural works, from time to time remains like bones, tiles, bricks, pottery, etc, were unearthed by the local farmers. Nonetheless, this fortification is set only 100 meters west from other smaller fort of 'Gradevcit' of Topanica, a multilayer archaeological site. Also the fort communicates visually with other smaller forts like *Gradevci i Hodanovcit* and the *Gradevci i Domorovcit*, located east and southeast from this fortress. All above mentioned small forts set close one to the other served for the surveillance of the vicinal roads and because of the dominant visual wide range view were constructed above these roads.

■ Fig.222. the site setting of the Topanica fortress.

■ Fig.223. View of the hill, respectively the Topanica fortress location.

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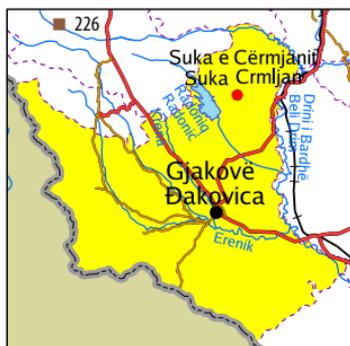
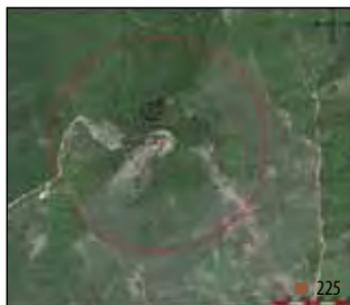


Suka e Cërmjanit fortification

On top of a hill around 500 meters above the sea level, in the northern part of the Cërmjan village, in one geo-strategic position, the Suka e Cërmjanit is positioned, an archeological site known also as the Castel of Cërmjan.

The fortification walls follow the contour line of the rocky terrain configuration in a surface of around 1.3 hectares. The Suka e Cërmjanit castle has all the features of a fortified settlement of the Late Antique date, although based on the earlier archaeological documentation, remains of a prehistoric date, respectively the occupation commencing from Iron Period continued uninterrupted until the Early Medieval Period.

The castle has a distinctive site setting while can visually communicate with; Dollc and Jerina castles of Klina up north, with Radavc and Jabllanica of Peja castles up northwest, Gjakova is visible in the horizon towards southwest, fortress of Zatriq (Rahovec) is visible toward north-northeast and toward the south the countryside of hills and fields are visible up to the verge of the Pashtrik Mountains.



■ Fig. 224. View from the distance of the Suka e Cërmjanit.

■ Fig. 225. Orthophoto of the Suka e Cërmjanit.

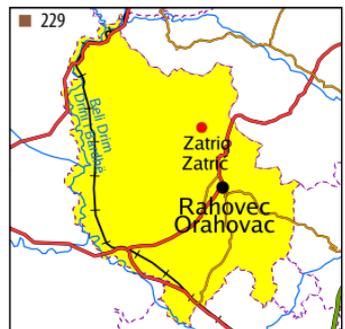
■ Fig. 226. The Suka e Cërmjanit site setting.

Remains of the fortified settlement of Iron Age and Late Antique/Early Medieval 'Gradishta' of Zatriq, is sited on top of the Zatriq hill, with the highest altitude of 1039 meters above the sea level. This 'fortified town' of a multilayer settlement type, was erected in a perimeter line which follows the terrain contour; location chosen which is naturally protected and integrated with the man made constructed protection system.

Traces of the fragmented pottery have been found in the entire fortified area, as well as the "Arat e Gradishtës" (Gradishta fields) found at the terraced plateaus nearby the fortress. Earthen ware fragmented dishes, of different dates have been found here, like: Iron Age, Hellenistic Period, Late Antique, and Medieval. Nonetheless, this archaeological center, respectively, characteristic fortification site, is unique, where an Italian specialist for the ancient rock art studies, has identified symbols and signs that were evaluated to be a creation of the humans before at least 7 millenniums.

- Fig. 227. View from distance of the Zatriq, Gradishta hill.
- Fig. 228. Ortophoto of the hill, respectively the Zatriq fortress location.
- Fig. 229. The site setting of the Zatriq fortress

Zatriq Fortress



Veletin Fortress

Veletin fortress is situated around five kilometers southeast from the archaeological site of Ulpiana and approximately, 1.5 kilometers northwest from Janjeva, set on a hilly part of the Shashkoc village which is an 'island' of Municipality of Prishtina. The fortress is located on top of the Veletin hill, reaching the highest elevation of 970 meters above the sea level. Great geostrategic position of the stronghold, clear surveillance on the western part that visually communicates with Ulpiana, which is set on a low land, makes this fort a very important site for the entire surrounding archaeological area.



Archaeological excavations carried out here during the eighties, resulted with the fact that the fortress was constructed and reconstructed and was in use since the earlier times, while the ore exploitation and ancient mining was a major economical income commencing from prehistoric periods, continuously through Roman, Late Antique and Medieval Periods.

- Fig. 230. View from the distance of the Veletin.
- Fig. 231. Orthophoto of the Veletin hill.
- Fig. 232. Site setting of the Veletin fortress.

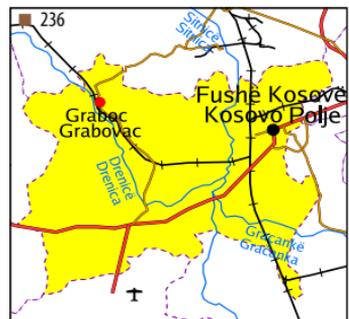
Graboc

The rural settlement of the Grabocit i Ulët, is positioned nearby the Drenica river, around 9 km west from the town of Fushë Kosova. At the Berisha neighborhood, at the site known by the locals as “Bahçe” initially in 2004 and then later in several excavation campaigns, graves within an Early Medieval necropolis were unearthed. Over a dozen graves, in majority in a good and well preserved condition and intact human remains have been excavated and recorded here, except two skeletons which were beheaded. The grave orientations were west-east (respectively the head toward west and the feet toward east). A considerable amount of the fragmented pottery of either glazed medieval but also few prehistoric date fragments of ceramics have been collected here. However, what draws the attention at this site is that the Arbër culture witnessed which is mainly composed of; jewelry, weaponry, working tools, pottery and rare glass jars which were part of the grave goods collected in this place.

Rewardingly, the grave goods within the burials were very rich especially with the jewelry discovered here. Among the most distinguished findings where; bronze rings, bracelets (one of them is twist decorated) a coin with a hole that might indicate that was used together with a necklace and a pair of bronze granulated earrings.



- Fig. 233. view of some unearthened graves of the Graboc necropolis.
- Fig. 234. Moment of work during the grave unearthing.
- Fig. 235. Bracelet and ring discovered inside one of the graves.
- Fig. 235a. Bracelet and earrings discovered in a grave at the Early Medieval necropolis of the Graboc.
- Fig. 236. the site setting of the Graboc medieval necropolis.





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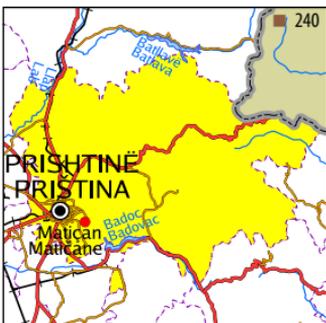
Matiqan

The filigran artisan work in gold, silver and gems with Byzantine imitations of the jewelry certainly present the work of a skilled local goldsmith, but also illustrates creative artistic talent and on the other hand, reflects on the welfare and high economical and social status of the late (deceased) persons buried at the Matiqan necropolis. Besides the grave gods which are a rich archaeological material, respectively precious artifacts, an important documentation in archaeological record, are the physical remains (human remains, skeletons) that from the anthropological aspect offer important information on the buried persons at this necropolis.

Earlier village of Matiqan, today neighborhood of Pristina, is known in the archaeological literature on the occasion of the discovery and recording of the necropolis known as the Matiqan i Poshtëm old cemetery, this later on confirmed based on the material culture and archaeological chronology, this site is dated in the time frame from 10th to 11th century AD. Furthermore, the distinguished necropolis, witnessed mortal remains graves/burials of the local autochthonous Christian population. Rich and abundant grave goods, respectively versatile archaeological material recorded here are composed mainly of woman jewelry of the highest quality and good material, it identifies the flourishing past of this region.



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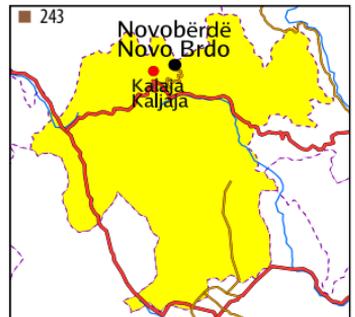
■ 240

- Fig. 237. Gilded earrings and decorated with gems. (MK)
- Fig. 238. Silver rings discovered in Matiqan necropolis. (MK)
- Fig. 239. Silver ring discovered at the Matiqan necropolis. (MK)
- Fig. 240. The site setting of the Matiqan medieval necropolis.



Novobërda

On a smaller mountain set between Prilepnica and Krivareka, around 30-35 km west from Gjilan and approximately, 39 kilometers south-east from Pristina, the ruins of the medieval town and fortress of Novobërda are to be seen. Based on the written sources discovered so far, Novobërda was mentioned for the first time at the first decades of the 14th century AD, with the name *Nuovo Monte* (New Mountain). The Medieval town was a mining center and up to the present days, remains of the walls, watch towers and foundations of several other sacral monuments within the area of the fortress are still preserved. The Novobërda fortress is composed by; the Upper Town and the Lower Town, built on the Novobërda hill. The Novobërda Upper Town, was erected on top of the hill, while below, toward west, the Lower Town stretches in a wide countryside territory. The fortress has access only from the eastern part, whereas from the other parts the hills are steep and inclining toward the walleys. Toward the eastern part, the terrain gradually raises what makes possible to pass to a lower hill in a plateau whereas ruins of a large medieval church of cathedral type are to be found.



- Fig.241. View of the Novobërda hill/fortress.
- Fig. 242. Aerial picture of the Novobërdë fortress.
- Fig. 243. The Novobërda site setting.



■ 244

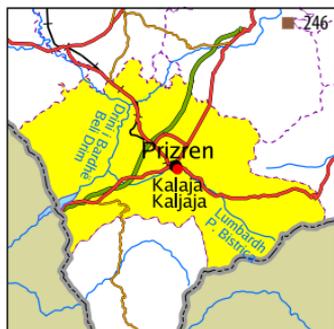


■ 245

Kalaja of Prizren

The historic town of Prizren, unique in position, dwelling structures and vernacular architecture, among tens of other monuments of culture recorded here, is known for a unique fortress known as Kalaja, which during its existence for many centuries from the ancientness up to nowadays, carries multiple and evident traces of colorful cultural heritage. Kalaja of Prizren due to the extraordinary good geostrategic position, structural integrity and the wide observation horizon, with all these factors emphasizes the monumental values of this cultural entity.

The fortress of the Prizren Kalaja is situated on a dominant hill at the eastern part of the town of Prizren, set on a strategic position, contoured with lines that follow distinguished features of the terrain natural morphology. Archaeological excavations were carried out here in 1969 and then again in 2004, 2009-2011; which resulted with the discovery of the infrastructure, which incorporates rampart walls enforced with towers, casemates, labyrinth corridors, depots, and other ac-



- Fig. 244. View from the distance of the Prizren kalaja.
- Fig. 245. Aerial view of the Prizren fortress.
- Fig. 246. The site setting of Kalaja/Prizren.



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■ 248

companying inner rooms and dwellings. In the aspect of construction, the fortress is divided in three different complexes which are known as the; Upper Town, Lower Town and Southern Town. While on the fortification aspect phases, the fortress was used in different periods like; Antiquity, Byzantine, Medieval and Ottoman rule. The Prizren Kalaja is one of the most valuable monuments of the Kosovo cultural and historical heritage and is also known as the 'Open Museum'.



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- Fig. 247. Picture depicting the inner part of the Kalaja.
- Fig. 248. View from the distance
- Fig. 249. The main gate of Kalaja
- Fig. 250. View of the casemates.

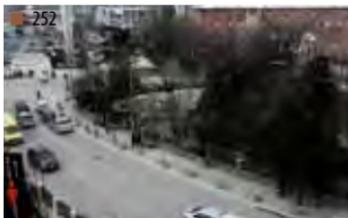


■ 251

Kosovo Museum

The Kosovo Museum is the first cultural heritage institution established for the purpose of research, guarding, restoration-preservation and to present movable archaeological heritage for the territory of the Republic of Kosovo. The Institution of Kosovo Museum is established in a special building, particular in architecture and site location, respectively, located at the Prishtinas' downtown old centre. In fact, the Museum exist since 1949, though the present museums was erected in 1889, projected according to the so called Austro-Hungarian style, and was built for the setting of the military headquarters of the spoken time (Ottoman period). The Museum is composed of three major exhibitions halls; one of the halls serves as a permanent archaeological exhibition. However, artifacts are also presented within the inner yard of the museum and as well at the lapidarium or so called archaeological park, which is located opposite from the museum, on the right side of the road.

Just beneath the ground floor of the museum, large warehouse/storage rooms are to be found, whereas, thousands of artifacts and other movable archaeological material are systematized, preserved under special conditions and safeguarded with special attention. Lastly, it should be stated that at the museums, on the third floor, the offices of the Archaeological Institute of Kosovo are located, a scientific-professional and competent institution for the archaeological researches on the entire territory of the Republic of Kosovo.

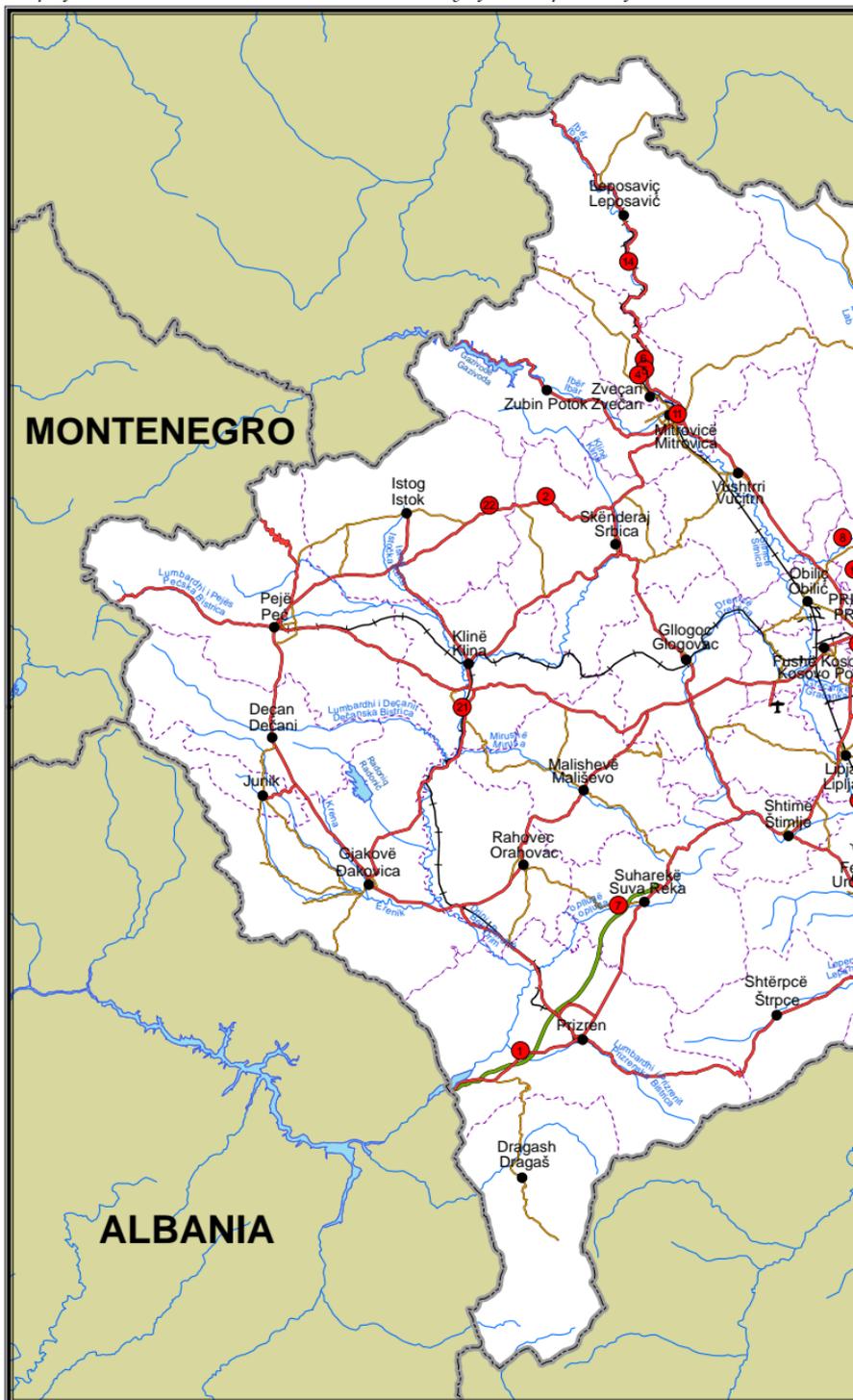


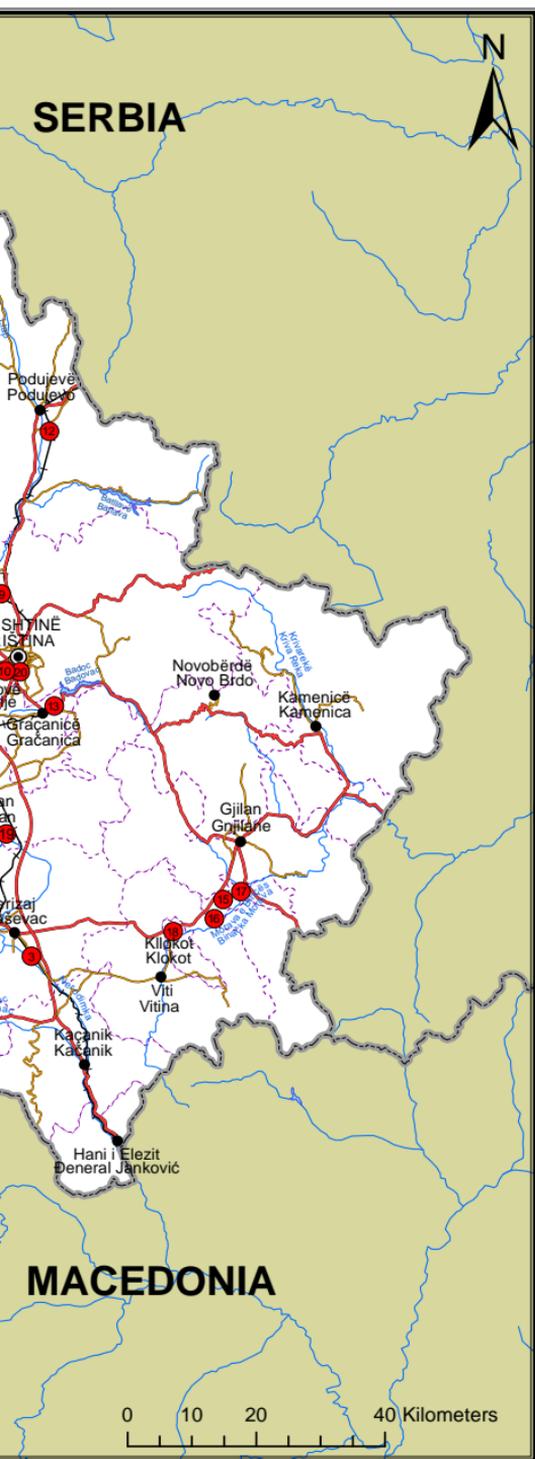
■ Fig. 251. Kosovo Museum.

■ Fig. 252. On the right of the road, the museums lapidarium.

■ Fig. 253. Part of the archaeological exhibition at the museum

Map of the several Neolithic sites in the territory of the Republic of Kosovo.



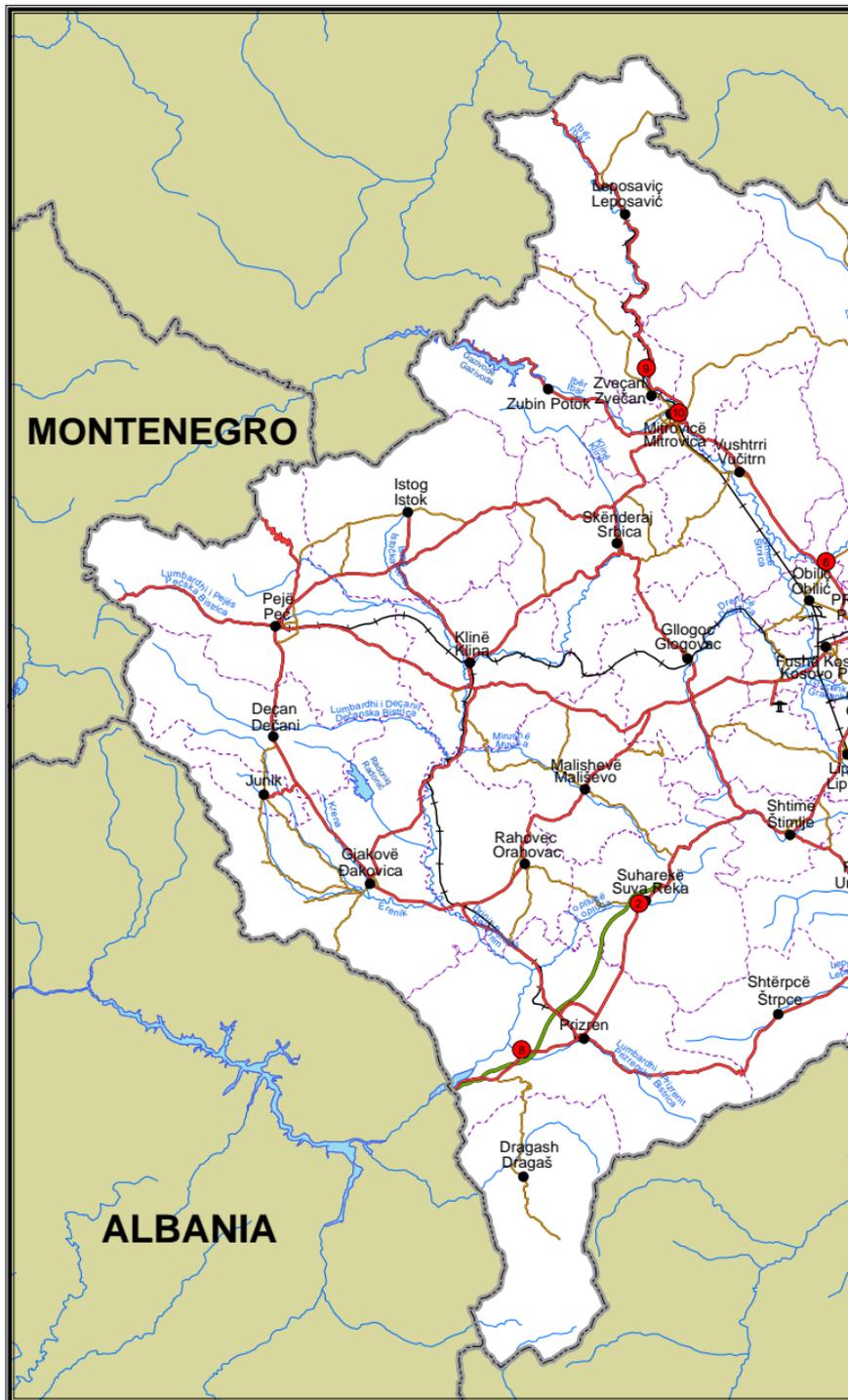


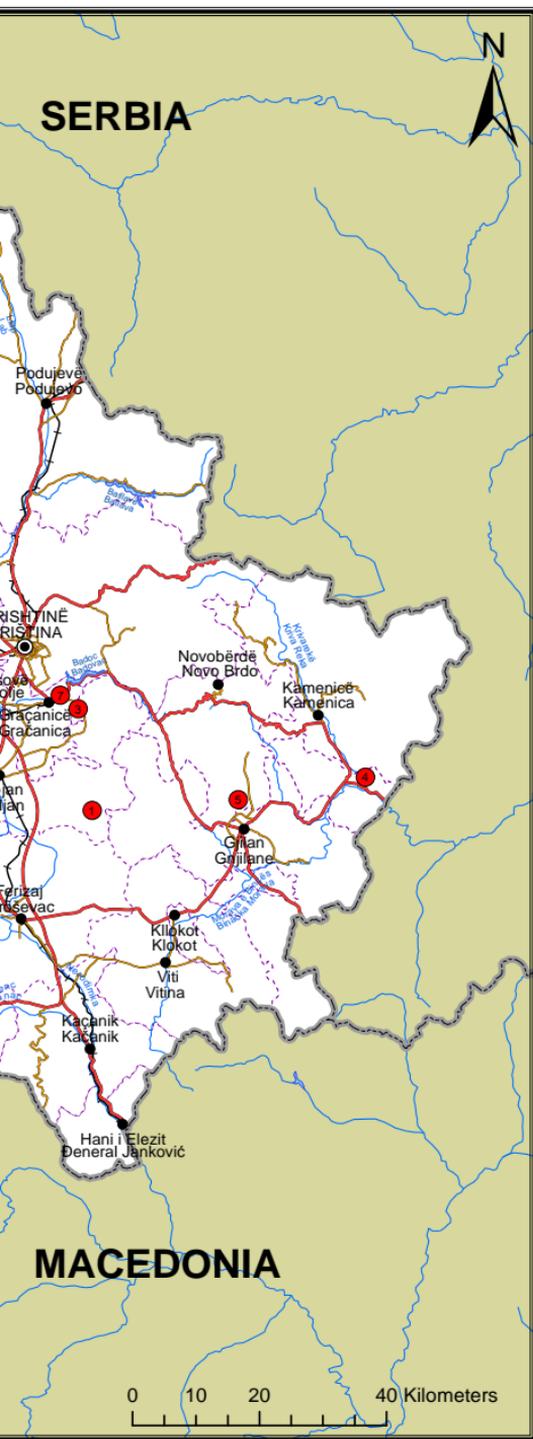
Neolithic Archaeological sites

Legend

1. Vlashnje / Vlaşnja
2. Runik / Rudnik
3. Varosh / Varoš
4. Zhitkoc / Žitkovac
5. Karagaç / Karagač
6. Vallaç / Valaç
7. Reshtan / Raštane
8. Barilevë / Bariljevo
9. Bardhosh / Devet Jugović
10. Tjerrtorja / Predionica
11. Fafos / Fafos
12. Surkish / Surkiš
13. Glladnicë / Gladnice
14. Soçanicë / Sočanica
15. Partesh / Parteš
16. Nosale / Nosalje
17. Budrigë e Poshtme / Donja Budriga
18. Klokot / Klokot
19. Raboc / Rabovce
20. Lagja e Spitalit - Prishtinë / Bolnica - Prishtina
21. Çupevë e Poshtme / Donje Čupevo
22. Rakosh / Rakoš

Map of the several Copper Age sites in the territory of the Republic of Kosovo.



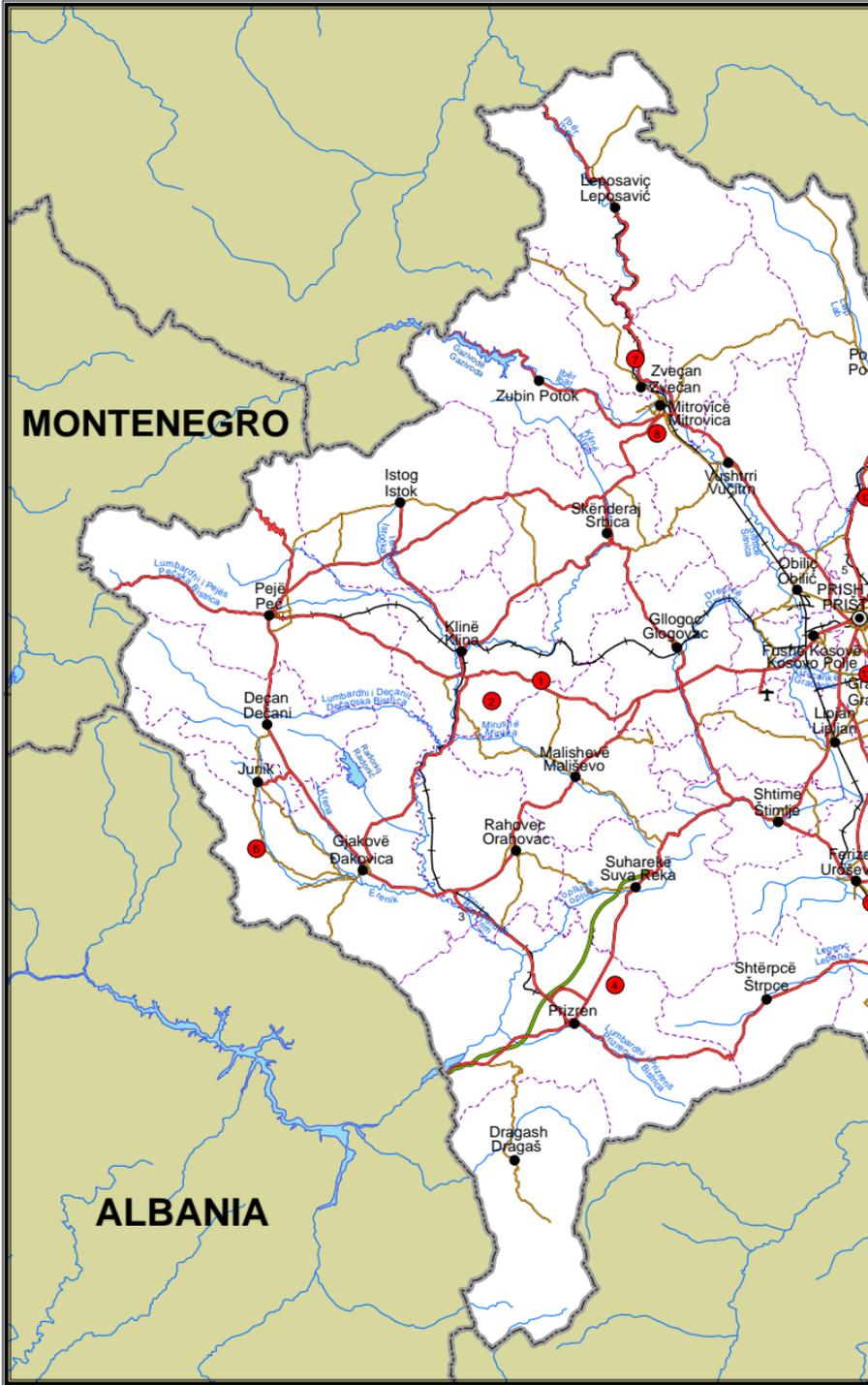


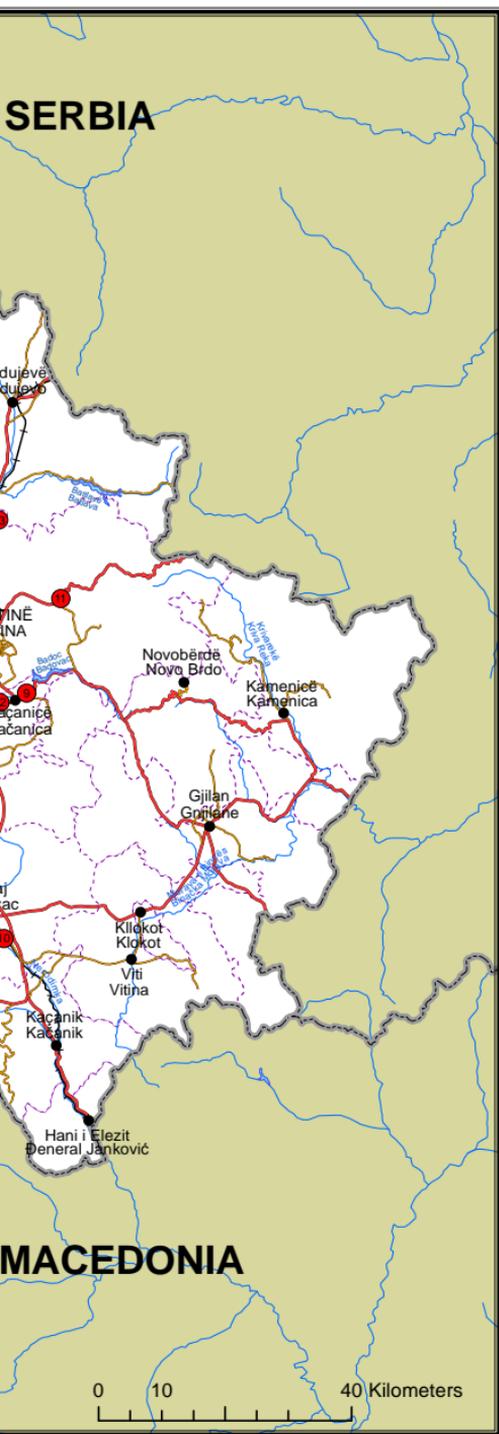
Copper Age Archaeological sites

Legend

1. Gadime e Epërme / Gornje Gadimlje
2. Hisar / Hisare
3. Veletin / Veletin
4. Domorovc / Domorovce
5. Stanishor / Stanišor
6. Raskovë / Raskovo
7. Glladnicë / Gladnice
8. Vlashnje / Vlašnja
9. Karagaç / Karagaç
10. Fafos / Fafos

Map of the several Bronze Age sites in the territory of the Republic of Kosovo.



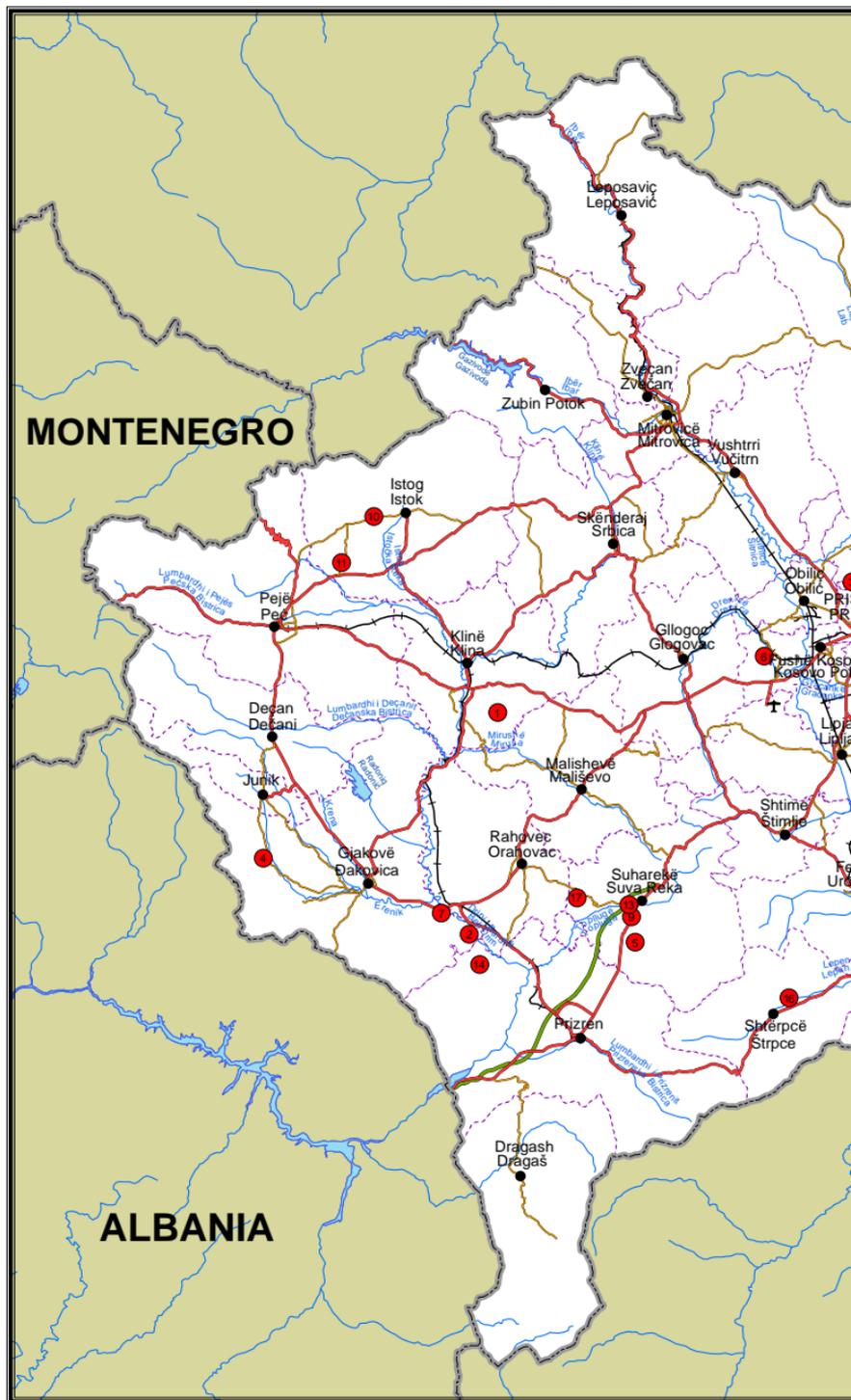


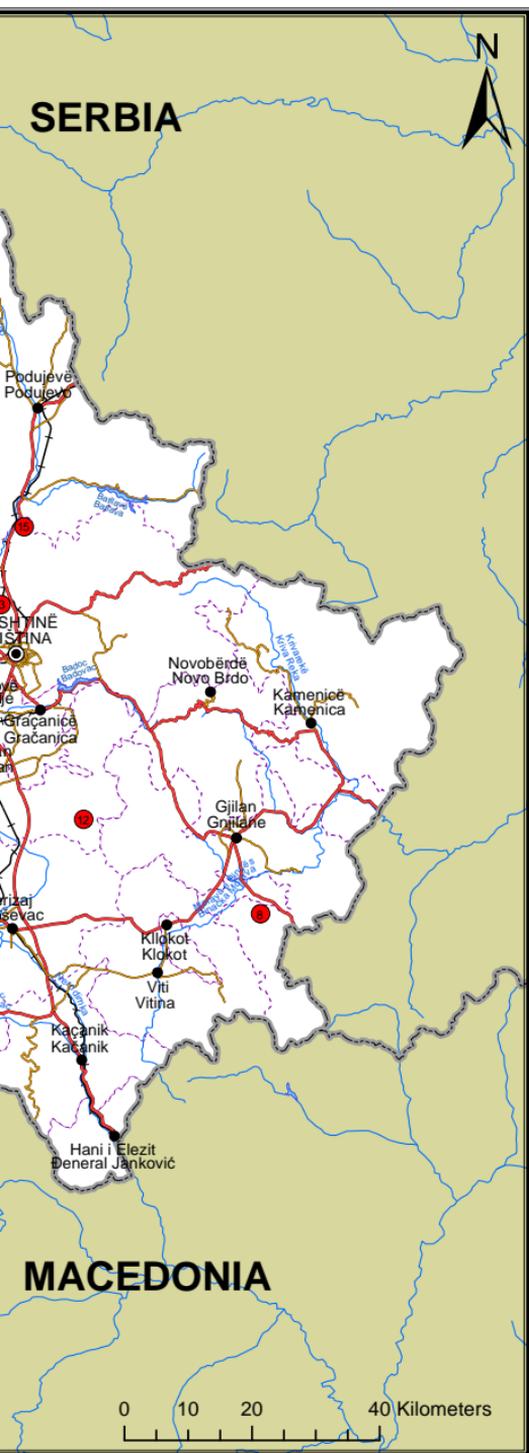
Bronze Age Archaeological sites

Legend

1. Rigjevë - Gllarevë / Ridevo - Iglarevo
2. Boka e Përçevës / Boka Prčevo
3. Rogovë / Rogovo
4. Korishë / Koriša
5. Bërnicë e Poshtme / Donja Brnjica
6. Ponošec / Ponoševac
7. Karagaç / Karagač
8. Lushtë / Ljušta
9. Glladnicë / Gladnice
10. Varosh / Varoš
11. Grashticë / Graštica
12. Ulpianë / Ulpiana
13. Teneshdöll / Teneš Do

Map of the several Iron Age sites in the territory of the Republic of Kosovo.



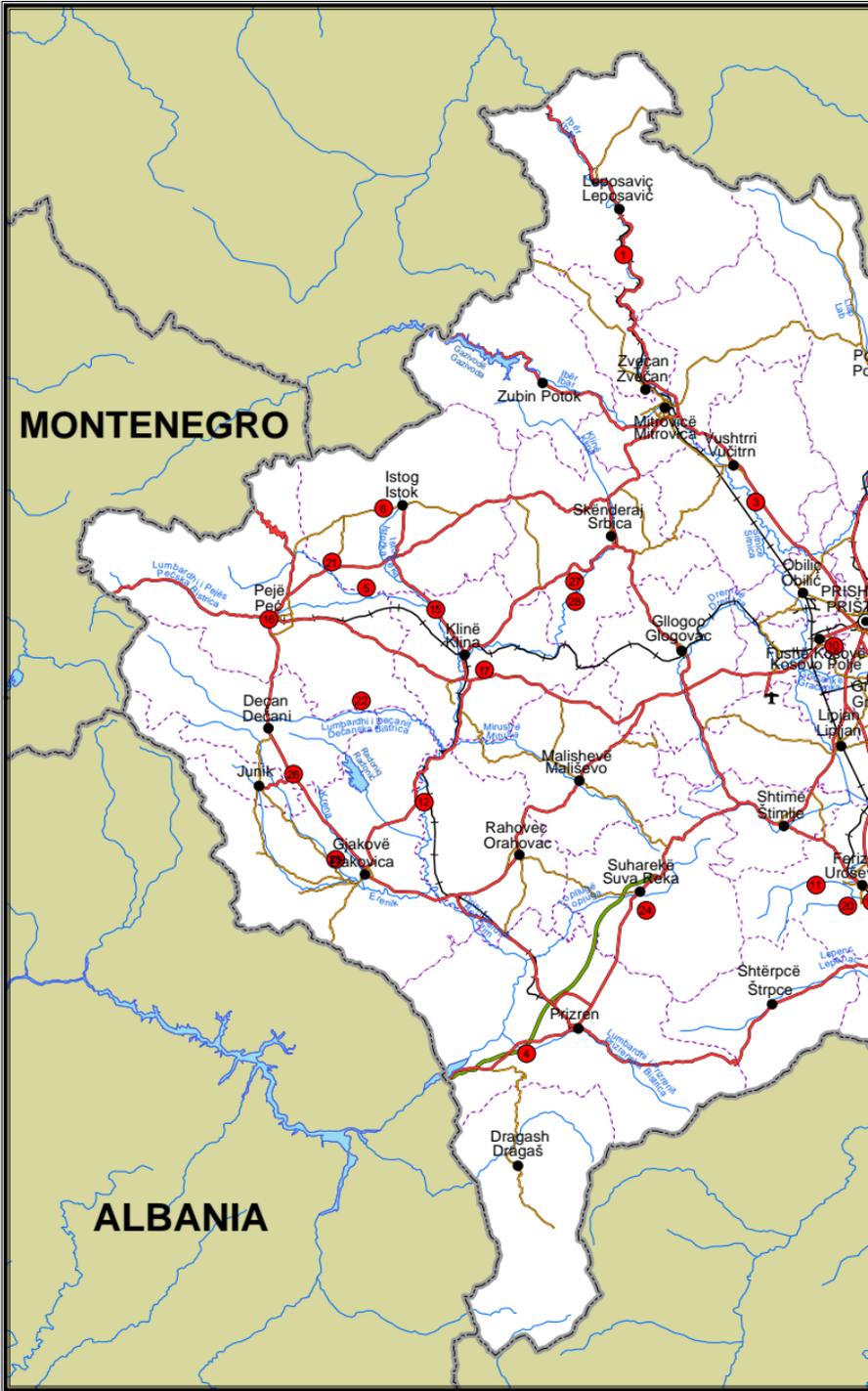


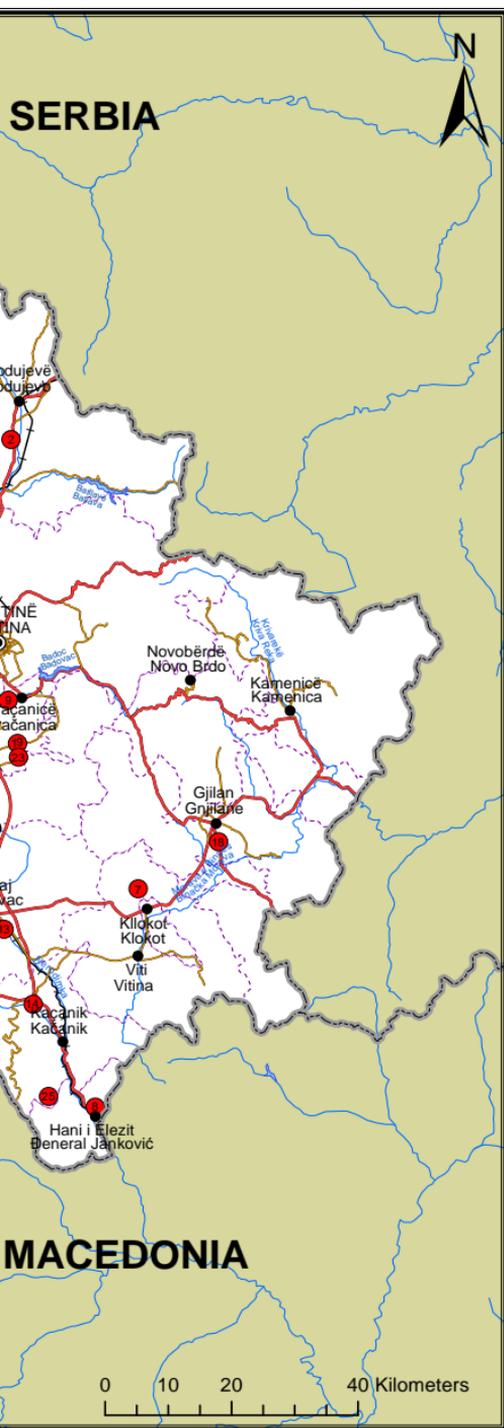
Iron Age Archaeological sites

Legend

1. Boka e Përçevës / Boka Prčevo
2. Rogovë / Rogovo
3. Bërnicë e Poshtme / Donja Brnjica
4. Ponoshec / Ponoševac
5. Gjinoc / Đinovce
6. Bellaçec (Bardh i Madh) / Belačevac
7. Fshej / Fšej
8. Llashticë / Vlaštica
9. Shirokë / Široko
10. Lubozhdë / Ljubožda
11. Banjë e Pejës / Pečka Banja
12. Gadime e Epërme Gornje Gadimlje
13. Hisar / Hisare
14. Romajë / Romaja
15. Teneshdol / Teneš
16. Biti e Poshtme / Donja Bitinja
17. Samadrexhë / Samodreža

Map of the several Roman Period sites in the territory of the Republic of Kosovo.



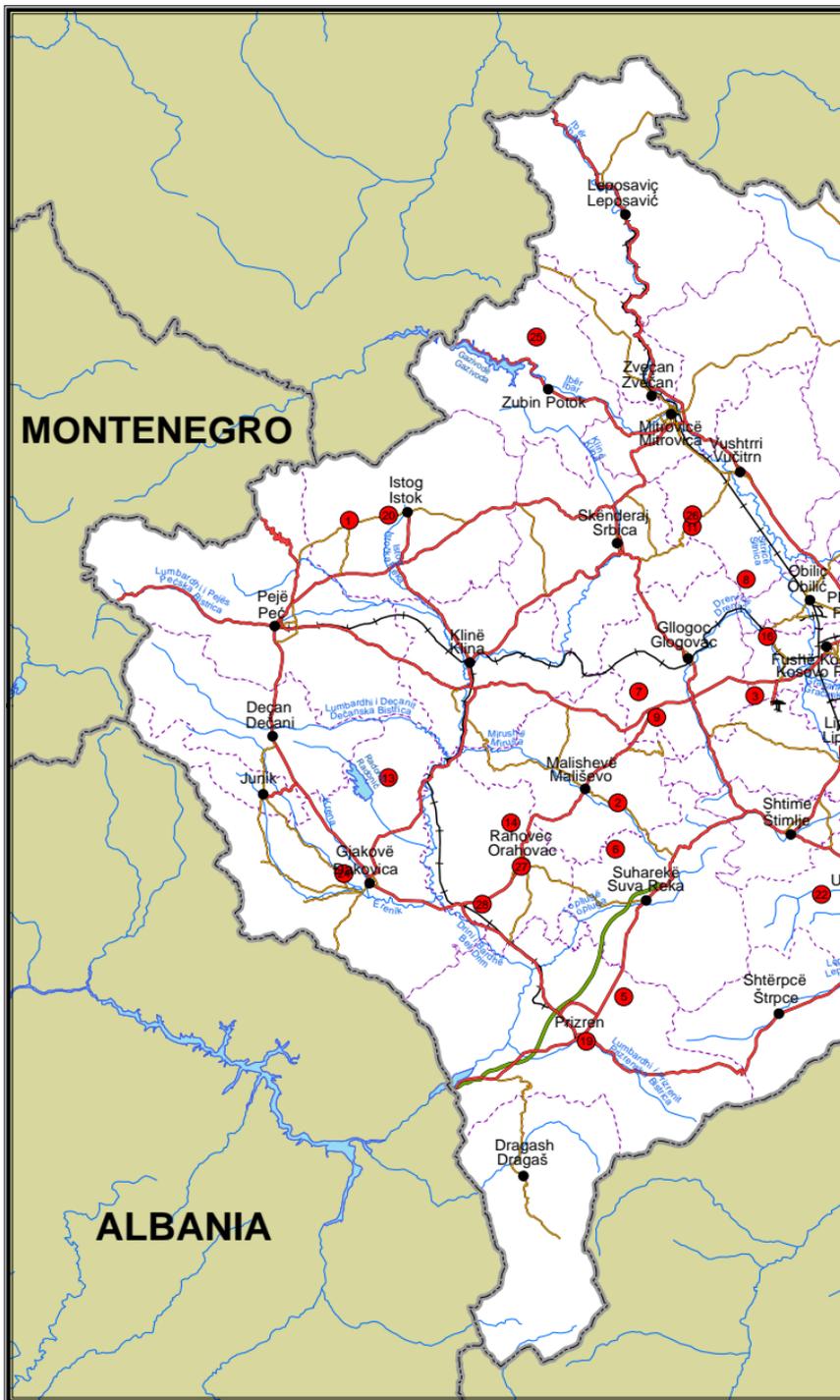


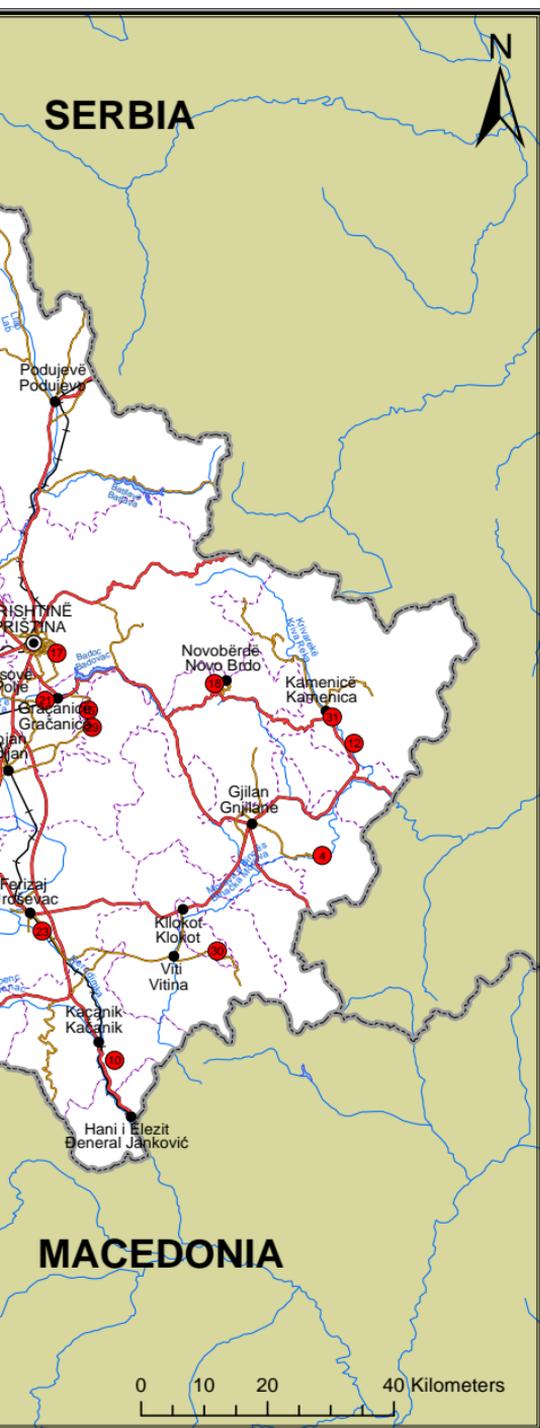
Archaeological sites of the Roman Period

Legend

1. Municipium DD (Sočanë) /
2. Vindenis (Glammnik) / Vindenis (Glavnik)
3. Pestovë / Pestovo
4. Poslishtë / Poslište
5. Staradran / Staro Dvorane
6. Cërcë / Crnce
7. Vërban / Vrban
8. Paldenicë / Palivodenica
9. Municipium Ulpiana (Gračanicë/Gračanica)
10. Statio Viciano (Uglarë) / (Ugljare)
11. Nerodime e Poshtme / Donje Nerodimlje
12. Çifllak / Čiflik
13. Nikadin / Nikodim
14. Sopotninë / Sopotnice
15. Zllakuçan / Zlokučane
16. Ish Fabrika e Baterive (Pejë) / Fab.Bat (Peć)
17. Municipium i Panjohur (Dërsnik) / Nepoznati Municipium (Drsnik)
18. Velekincë / Velekince
19. Gushtericë e Poshtme / Donja Gušterica
20. Zaskok / Zaskok
21. Banjicë / Banjica
22. Çellopek / Čelopek
23. Dobratin / Dobrotn
24. Sopi / Sopine
25. Kottinë / Kottina
26. Rastavicë / Rastavica
27. Ticë / Tica
28. Tushilë / Tušilje
29. Jahoc / Jahoc

Map of the several Late Antique and Medieval sites in the territory of the Republic of Kosovo.





Late Antiquity and Medieval archaeological sites

Legend

1. Vrellë / Vrela
2. Banja e Malishevës / Mališevska Banja
3. Kalaja e Harilaqit / Gradina kod Ariljače
4. Kalaja e Pogragjës / Gradina kod Podgrađe
5. Kalaja e Korishës / Gradina kod Koriše
6. Kalaja e Kastërcit / Gradina kod Kostrc
7. Kalaja e Vuçakut / Gradina kod Vučak
8. Kalaja e Strovcit / Gradina kod Strovce
9. Kalaja e Llapushnikut / Gradina kod Lapušnik
10. Kalaja e Llanishtës / Gradina kod Lanište
11. Kalaja e Dubocit / Gradina kod Dubovac
12. Kalaja e Topanicës / Gradina kod Topanica
13. Suka e Gërmjanit / Suka Crmljan
14. Zatriq / Zatrić
15. Veletin / Veletin
16. Graboc i Ultës / Donji Grabovac
17. Matičan / Matičane
18. Kalaja e Novobërdës / Gradina kod Novo Brdo
19. Kalaja e Prizrenit / Gradina kod Prizren
20. Cërcë / Crnce
21. Ulpianë (Justiniana Secunda) / Ulpiana (Justiniana Secunda)
22. Nerodime e Poshtme / Donje Nerodimlje
23. Nikadin / Nikodim
24. Jahoc / Jahoc
25. Anina / Anina
26. Çeçan / Čečan
27. Gjyteti i Rahovecit / Gradina kod Orahovac
28. Bellacërk / Bela Crkva
29. Gradina e Janjevës / Gradina kod Janjevo
30. Kalaja e Gërmçarit / Gradina kod Grnčare
31. Kalaja e Kamenicës / Gradina kod Kamenica