ALBANIA



POGRADEC

CITY GUIDE



WELCOME TO INCOMPARABLE POGRADEC

It is my pleasure to welcome you on this beautiful journey to discover all that Pogradec has to offer. Our city is a hidden treasure of nature and rich culture, that welcomes you with its beautiful spaces and warm hospitality.

Pogradec offers a great and varied potential to both, the domestic and the foreign tourists. It is a city known for its Lake, which is part of UNESCO as World Heritage. You can relax on the wonderful beaches, visit the permeable mountains and touch closely the rare natural beauties of this area. You will also experience the cultural heritage of our city, visit the Heritage Quarter as well as participate in local events and festivals that reflect our folkloric and ethnographic identity. There is a whole wide range of opportunities for adventure, relaxation, water sports, nature walks, guides to cultural and historical sites. We offer a complete package for every visitor and tourist. Therefore, I invite you all to visit Pogradec, to experience our unique beauty and hospitality, in a city full of history, art and culture.

Incomparable Pogradec, there is none of its kind!

Mayor of Municipality of Pogradec

Ilir XHAKOLLI

HISTORY OF THE REGION

The discoveries made by the archaeological excavations show that Pogradec area has been inhabited since ancient times. The earliest human traces belong to the Neolithic Age (6000 BC). During the Copper and Bronze Age, the number of settlements increased significantly but the greatest development in ancient times took place during the Civil Illyrian period when this area became the epicenter of the developement of the First Illyrian Kingdom (5th-4th centuries BC). This territory was populated by the Illyrian tribes of Enkelej and Desaret, which had a strict and rigorous state and military organization, as well as a developed civilized culture. They founded several important cities among which we mention Pelion and Enkelana. As already known, after three wars with Rome, Illyria fell under the rule of the latter. However, this region preserved its development thanks to the construction of the road Egnatia that connected Dyrrah with Constantinople. Several branches of this road passed through the settlements along the lake shore and the province of Mokra. In 359, the Roman empire was divided into two parts, the Roman Empire and the Byzantine Empire. Pogradec area was included in the latter. In the 6th century, the Slavic invasion of the area had a great destroying impact. With the bulgarian invasion of the 9th centry, the name of the settlement built under the Illyrian city of Enkelana was changed, being slavicized in the version "pod grada" known today as Pogradec, which means under the city. At the beginning of the Middle Ages, the country was called Arbëri but soon was divided into several principalities.

Such division continued until the ottoman invasion. The ottomans divided the country into four regions known as Vilayets. Pogradec belonged to the Vilayet of Manastir and was under the direct administration of the Ohrid's sanjak. With the declaration of the Albania Independence in 1912, the territory of Pogradec became part of the new Albanian state and entered a new phase of development which was heavily influenced by the fluctuations caused by the political situations especially during the two world wars (First World War: 1914 - 1918 and Second World War: 1939 – 1944). With the end of the Second World War, Pogradec area turns into an important center of tourism and industry. The construction of the railway in this period coincides with the construction of the Iron-Nickel Enrichment Mine in the village of Mëmëlisht, very close to the shore of the lake. In the system of the socialist state Pogradec has been the center of Pogradec District as part of the bigger regional district of Korça. The district of Pogradec had already created a historical tradition in the administrative organization, having in its composition the Field of Pogradec and the inhabited surroundings with local borders that have been adapted to the geotopographical positioning and the relief, being the main subunits. Meanwhile, the province of Mokra, although with distinct and different features from those of the Pogradec field, has also been a traditional and historical part of the organization of the local government.





CITY ATTRACTIONS

LAKE SHORE PROMENADE

It is the main promenade of the city of Pogradec which stretches along the shore of the lake and includes the city's Great Park. Various bars, restaurants and businesses are located along it, which operate throughout the year, but with a greater flow in the summer season. In summer, the promenade turns into a pedestrian street from 18:00 h to 24:00 h. There, the citizens of Pogradec, as well as vacationers, perform the traditional afternoon walk for which Pogradec is famous. The promenade ends with the complex of government residences which, together with the park in front of them, were built during the communist period. Until 1990, the citizens of Pogradec were prohibited from entering this part of the city park. Today, only the part outside the enclosure of the government residences can be visited.



HISTORICAL CENTER OF POGRADEC
BURIMAT NEIGBOURHOOD "TOPLECI"

The Historical Center of Pogradec is a space with important historical and architectural values that documents the historical development of the city of Pogradec and the urban-architectural features that were formed during its history. The historical center, declared as such by the Albanian Council of Ministers in 2015, includes: the Ensemble in "Burima" quarter also known by the name "Toplec", the ensemble along Naim Frashëri street, as well as the ensemble around the cross alley with Naim Frashëri street. Part of this historical center are also 6 traditional houses of vernacular architecture that hold the legal status of Cultural Monuments of the First Category. Part of this architectural ensemble we can also find the house that served as the Second Albanian School, opened on March 14, 1887. All these buildings are located in "Burima" quarter which is the oldest neighborhood of the city of Pogradec and takes its name from several abundant water sources that flow from the surrounding mountains. This neighborhood is the core of post-medieval Pogradec.



HISTORICAL CENTER OF POGRADEC "NAIM FRASHËRI" STREET

Naim Frashëri street, which is located about 300 meters north of the "Burima" quarter, was built according to the regulatory plan for the urban development of the city of Pogradec implemented by the French architect Albert Garrique in 1927. This street is the cross connection of two main axes, The New Boulevard that today holds the name Reshit Çollaku and the street Kajo Karafili These main axes greatly facilitated movement in the city, giving a great impulse to its development with new constructions on both sides, including hotels, shops, administrative buildings and housing.



THE SQUARE OF ROSES

The "Square of Roses", which takes its name from the 4000 roses embeded on the square and is conceived as a beautiful, relaxing and creative corner, interwoven with the monuments of two luminaries of Albanian letters both born in Pogradec, Lasgush Poradeci and Mitrush Kuteli. Both of these monuments were created by the famous albanian sculptor, Muntaz Dhrami. The statue of Lasgush Poradeci is 3.4 m high and was inaugurated in 2006, while the statue of Mitrush Kuteli is 3.6 m high and was inaugurated in 2010.



THE ODEON OF THE CITY

Odeon is a place used for different artistical and cultural festival organizations, activites and events that take place mainly during summer, in the city of Pogradec. Its reconstruction done during the year 2021, brought inovative architectonic elements such as, columns and pilasters based on the Ionic style of the grave No. 3 in the lower Selca, often presented with various floral decorations and ornaments.



THE FOUNTAIN

The fountain is the latest tourist attraction that has been added to the city of Pogradec since 2022.



THE CASTLE OF POGRADEC

Pogradec Castle is located in the southwest of Lake Ohrid, above the town of Pogradec, on a hill about 200 m high. In the IV century BC this settlement was equipped with surrounding walls and began to serve as a civic center, whose inhabitants were mainly engaged in agriculture, fishing and various crafts. The name of today city of Pogradec means "under the city" and is a reference to this settlement.



HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF POGRADEC

The Historical Museum of Pogradec has been open since November 1964. This museum has an archaeological and historical character. It contains a rich collection of artefacts, which represent the history of Pogradec region from the first traces of humanity of the early Neolit ages (8000 years before) into the present day. Most of the objects belong to a special local historical context and are unique not only for the region, but for the whole territory of Albania.



"UÇKAT" BEACH

Uçkat Beach is one of the five public beaches of the city of Pogradec. Uckat has taken its name from the beach which are timber remains of the mole that was built in the 30's, of the XX'th century,for the transporting boats anchorage used for the goods and the citizens transportation between Pogradec and Oher. This is a beach with small pebbles with crystal water that is frequented from a great number vacationers during the summer season and beyond.



THE STATUES OF THE TWO WRITERS
LASGUSH PORADECI AND MITRUSH KUTELI

The monuments of two luminaries of the Albanian letters, Lasgush Poradeci and Mitrush Kuteli both born in Pogradec. Both those monuments are realized from the known Sculptor, Muntaz Dhrami, relatively the statue of Lasgush Poradeci has a height of 3.4 m and is inaugurated in 2006, whereas the statue of Mitrush Kuteli has a height of 3.6 m and is inaugurated in 2010. Near them is the fountain which is the latest attraction added to the city of Pogradec since 2022.









ACROSS THE LAKE

LIN VILLAGE

The village of Lin is located at the foot of a very high hill on the peninsula of the same name, which lies on the northwestern shores of Lake Ohrid. The characteristic buildings have transformed the village into the most authentic settlement on the Albanian shores of Lake Ohrid. They lie along a narrow strip in the western part of the peninsula, with a slight slope towards the lake. The houses are built in a row, one after the other, often touching or even leaning on each-other. They are built of stone and are generally two floor high. The balconies on the second floor were mainly used to dry the fish that was caught in the lake and also to prepare the food stored for winter, but they were also used for relaxing purposes, conversations, etc. The antiquity of the village is not only evidenced by the houses, but also by other traces around it, such as the Paleo-Christian basilica on the top of the peninsula, the Byzantine period churches, the traces of the mole where the boats were anchored, etc.



LIN PENINSULA

The Peninsula of Lin is located west of Lake Ohrid, 20 km north of the city of Pogradec and has a surface of 1.5 km². It is a place of touristic, cultural, ecological value and importance. The village of Lin is located there as well as a paleo-Christian basilica. The peninsula can be explored via a 5.56 km long nature trail which includes the village of Lin, the area called Zagraqe as well as the territory to the west of the peninsula. Its highest point is 718 m above sea level.



THE PALEO – CHRISTIAN BASILICA OF LIN

The Paleo-Christian Basilica of Lin, along with the mosaics in it, is located on the top hill of Saint Thanas, which forms the peninsula of Lin. It was discovered for the first time in 1967 during a research expedition of the employees of the local museum of Pogradec. It consists of seven rooms in total, the floors of which were all decorated with mosaics. The basilica, together with the premises surrounding it, was first built in the VI century AD as a summer residence of the bishops of Lyhnid (today's Ohrid).



THE PALEO - CHRISTIAN MOSAICS OF LIN BASILICA

The Paleo – Christian mosaics of Lin Basilica consist of motifs that include not only elements commonly used in other basilicas, such as: eucharistia (birds pecking grapes), motifs with braids, scenes from the aquatic, plant and animal world, swastika and flowers but also motifs that are very rarely found in buildings of the same type such as bees. The most commonly used colors for decoration are white, black, red, brown, green, yellow and orange. For the construction of the mosaics were used small stones in the form of cubes (tessera) with dimensions of 1x1 cm, most of them have a limestone composition but we can also find marble, brick and glass dough cubes. Excavations have shown that in the archaeological layer belonging to the X-XI century, there are traces of a massive fire. It was during this period, which coincides with the occupation of the area by the Bulgarian Empire, that the basilica must have burned to the ground and its walls were completely flattened. It was not rebuilt, after the fire.



TUSHEMISHT

Tushemishti is a touristic village located in the 7th km of the east part of the Pogradec city. It lies on the edge of Lake Ohrid, at the foot of two high rocky hills. The village was founded around XVIII century with inhabitants from the surrounding villages. Today it is a very important touristic attraction for the entire Pogradec area. Characteristic houses, numerous restaurants, the statue of Olga and culinary traditions give the village a unique atmosphere.



DRILON

Driloni National Park is located in the 5th km of the east part of the Pogradec city, right next to the village of Tushemisht. It was built in the 60s of XX century, around a carstic spring which is one of the main water feeders of Ohrid Lake . The spring creates a large water basin, where you can row a boat and enjoy the beauty of the surrounding landscape. It is rich in trees of different types such as maple, willow, weeping willows, poplars and reeds. Inside the park, visitors can enjoy some of the best restaurants in the area as well as relax in the presence of swans and other waterfowl that populate this important tourist attraction.

POGRADEC – DRILON BEACH

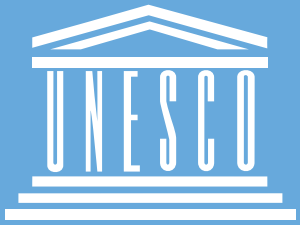
Pogradec - Drilon Beach is a 3 km long sandy beach that stretches from the end of the block of Government Residences to Drilon Park. Distanced from the two most frequented spots by visitors in the summer, Pogradeci and Tushemishti, the beach offers an incomparable tranquility which turns it into a favorite spot for vacationers who want to get away from the city noise.



UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Physical characteristics of the lake, flora and fauna. Ohrid Lake is one of the richest and most precious biological reserves in Europe. It shines as a unique ecological system and it is characterized by a biodiversity with many endemic species of flora and fauna. Its height above sea level is 695 m, while the surface reaches 358.2 km². 2/3 of this area belongs to the Macedonian Republic and 1/3 to the Albanian Republic. The shore of the lake has a total extension of 87.5 km (about 31 km belong to Albania), the maximum length of which reaches 30.8 km and the maximum width 14.8 km. The lake has an average depth of 164 m while the maximum depth is 289 m. It is constantly fed by a network of more than 40 rivers and small water streams. The Black Drin River originates from it. This process of movement of water from incoming and outgoing sources makes it possible for the lake water to be completely regenerated every 70 years. In addition to its very clean waters, the lake is also known for its special ecosystem, which is considered a museum in nature and a natural center for the preservation of biodiversity and its landscape. It is the habitat of more than 1400 autochthonous species of flora and fauna, 300 of which are endemic. Their presence in the lake is conditioned by many factors such as the very old age of the lake, its geographical position, isolation through a crown of

mountains and hills, as well as the state of its waters still in the oligotrophic phase (oligotrophy = little presence of algae resulting in clean and oxygen-rich waters). Among the autochthonous species of the lake are 21 fish species of which 10 are endemic. The most popular of these are Salmo letnica (Koran) and Salmothimus ohridanus (Belushka). About 85% of the lake shells, 50 types of snails, 20 types of plancton, as well as many types of worms and sponges are considered endemic species. An important part of the lake's ecosystem is also its littoral zone (the depth to which sunlight penetrates, which makes it possible to grow aquatic plants). The littoral zone is the home of many microorganisms as well as the nest of several fish and birds who lay their eggs in this zone.



HISTORY OF REGISTRATION AS UNESCO PATRIMONY

The Lake Ohrid region is a mixed World Heritage site covering an area of 94,729 ha and is shared between Albania and North Macedonia. This region includes the entire watershed of Lake Ohrid on both sides of the border and the coast around it. On the Albanian side, this territory includes the lake, its shore, the village of Lin and the National Park of Drilon. This property was first registered on the World Heritage list in 1979 including only the part of the lake within the borders of North Macedonia. In 2019, the Albanian part of the lake was added to this part, thus making it possible to include the entire lake and the surrounding region as a single natural and cultural asset. The excellent combination of well-preserved natural values with the quality of the cultural, material and spiritual heritage of its inhabitants has transformed this territory into a truly unique region. At the center of this wealth lies Lake Ohrid, one of the most unique natural heritages in the world. This property is officially known as the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Lake Ohrid Region and is one of the 30 mixed sites (nature + culture) protected by UNESCO.







CULTURAL AND SPORT EVENTS

LAKE DAY

Lake Day is celebrated every 21 June on the basis of an agreement between the three cities that lie in the shores of Lake Ohrid, Pogradec on the albanian side and Ohrid and Struga on the macedonian side. This day is celebrated in rotation between the three cities through a series of joint activities, with the aim of promoting the sustainable management of the lake's ecosystem, which is considered one of the largest lakes in the Balkan Peninsula and one of the oldest lakes in the world.



THE START OF TOURISTIC SEASON

The Start of the Touristic Season is one of the most comprehensive events of the Municipality of Pogradec, which consists inviting Albanian and foreign tourists to visit the natural, cultural and historical assets that this region carries. "The start of the Touristic Season" combines culture, tourism, culinary, local business and other sectors whose economic activity peaks during thetouristic season.



BALLKAN FILM FOOD FESTIVAL

The Balkan Film Food Festival is organized in the city of Pogradec from the year 2011. The festival promotes creativity and the best achievements of recent years in the field of cinematography.Already turned into a tradition, this festival has become the promoter of Balkan cinemtaography and authentic Albanian cultural-artistic-gastronomical values as well as the conductor of the values of Pogradec city in the Balkans and beyond. Pogradec has been and will remain an open gate for all Balkan artists creating thus possibilites for cultural exchange, creation of friendships, understanding and mutual respect.



MOKRA N'FESTË

Mokra N'Festë is a Festival organized by the Municipality of Pogradec that focuses on the promotion of Mokra's territory and its monuments of culture and nature, traditions, customs, cuisine, folklore, etc. A very important element of this event is the culinary. The participants have the chance to taste the traditonal food of the region such as the scone, chesse, grilled meat, the pie with two foils, rakia, narden etc.



THE NATIONWIDE PUPPET THEATER "XINXIFILO"

The Puppet Theater Festival Xinxifilo was held for the first time in March of 2002, named after one of the most prominent characters of Albanian fairy tales that were collected by the famous Pogradec born writer, Mitrush Kuteli. The festival is aiming to become a tradition in this very important field of art. This event aims to entertain the children in Pogradec and beyond and also to create opportunities for contact and exchange of experiences between the troupes of this theatrical style inside and outside Albania. The Festival is held in June.



WINE AND CHESTNUT FESTIVAL

Over the centuries, the citizens of Pogradec have produced a variety of wines in the cellars of their houses, and they have done so with rare skill, although in an artisanal way. In order to celebrate this ancient tradition, the Wine Festival has been taking place in Pogradec since 1994. In recent years, another element has been added to this celebration, such as the chestnut, which is the characteristic tree of the city and was historically planted in the crown of the hills that surround it. Part of this celebration is the competition for the best artisanal red and white wine, as well as the best Cantina. Part of this event are also various competitions in the field of poetry and painting. A festive concert is also organized during the two days of the event.



THE "ENKELANA" MARATHON

The "Enkelana" Marathon is a sport event that is held in the city of Pogradec from 2022. The participants are from all over Albania but also from other countries of the world. The event is divided into two races: the "Half Marathon" Lin - Pogradec which is 21 km and the "Mini Marathon" Pogradec – Drilon which is 10 km. At the end of the competitions, the participants are all awarded with the participation medal.


START

BEACH VOLLEY CHAMPIONSHIP

The Beach Volley Championship is already a tradition in the city of Pogradec since 1995. It is organized almost every year in cooperation with the Albanian Volleyball Federation. Due to this long-standing tradition, the city of Pogradec has produced national champions. In 2023, Pogradec hosted for the first time the Beach Volley Championship for 20-year olds with participations from countries such as Albania, Kosovo, Turkey, Romania and Moldova.


BALKAN

SWIMMING MARATHON "AGRON RUVINA"

In honor of the former Pogradec swimming champion and swimming record holder Agron Ruvina, Pogradec hosts for the fourth year in a row the Swimming Marathon which holds his name. In this swimming marathon, the participants are from the city of Pogradec, Elbasan, Tirana, etc. The ages are also different, including young and veteran swimmers.



OTHER SPORTS EVENTS

The city of Pogradec has already created an annual tradition in the organization of other sports events such as “Street Basket” since 2020, “Canoe Races” since 2022 and the “Amateur Chess Championship” since 2022.







ART AND CRAFTS

POGRADEC ART GALLERY

Pogradec Art Gallery was established around the 70s and since 1989 it has been located on the upper floor of the building known today as Lasgush Poradeci Multifunctional Center". The gallery hosts each year various exhibitions of Albanian painters from Pogradec and from different cities, as well as foreign ones.



ART STUDIO "TASO"

The painter born in Pogradec, Anastas Kostandini, is one of the most important painters of Albanian art of the XX -XXI century. His work is already recognized and appreciated for its high artistic quality, authenticity and originality. His subjects are mainly dedicated to his hometown including (landscapes, compositions, peaceful nature, portraits, graphics, drawings, pastels, etc.). In his private studio, Taso has preserved parts of the skeleton of the city intact. The works are distributed in over 20,000 pencil, pen, graphic, etching, woodcut and carbon drawings. His studio is located in one of the alleys along Naim Frashëri street.



ART STUDIO "VANGJO VASILI"

The painter Vangjo Vasili completed his studies at the Academy of Arts where he graduated in Graphics in 1973. He is known for his unique landscapes and characteristic style. He has participated in many national and international exhibitions such as in Tiranë, Gjirokastër, Shkodër, Korçë, Egypt, Turkey, Italy, France, Austria, Romania, Germany, Bulgaria, etc. Vangjo Vasili has been honored with many awards both at home and abroad. His studio is located on the first floor of the "Lasgush Poradeci Multifunctional Center".



ART STUDIO "ENXHEL GEGPRIFTI"

Enxhel Gegprifti is a talented painter and the grandson of Todi Mato (1930-1996) who was one of the famous sculptors and painters in Pogradec in the 1970s-80s. Enxhel is currently following in his grandfather's artistic footsteps. He mainly likes to paint the unique landscape of the Pogradec region and create abstract installations. In his studio he also offers painting courses for children who love art and beauty. The studio is located alongside the western part of "Reshit Çollaku" Boulevard.



SHPELLART
CONTEMPORARY ART STUDIO

Shpellart is an art house established in 2022, with the innovative idea to develop the artistical and cultural life of the city. The art house consists in the development of artistical activities like, musical evenings, exhibitions of figurative work arts pieces, poetical evenings, book promotions and at the same time is the studio of the painter Henri Shkurti, where his works are exhibited, paintings that belong to the postmodern art style. Shpellart has served as an evening open bar and offers an environment where citizens can find themselves between art and social spirit.



ART STUDIO "ARTAN KAJA"

Artan Kaja is a well-known painter not only in the lake town of Pogradec but also among Albanian artists. He stands out for the diversity of his works. He graduated from the Academy of Arts in the field of Painting. Nature, characters, simple people and abstracts are among the main themes that are treated in the paintings exhibited in the painter's gallery, which is located along the City Promenade.



WOOD CARVING STUDIO "PIRRO ICKA"

Wood carving is a well-known craft tradition in the city of Pogradec. Pirro Icka is the fourth generation of artists in the Icka family who, with his traditional and modern works, continues and preserves the family tradition. Currently, he is a lecturer at Fan Noli University in Korça, but this does not distance him from the craft inherited between generations and the special passion for the craftsmanship of wood carving. His studio is located in the western part of Reshit Çollaku Boulevard.



HANDICRAFT MARKET IN TUSHEMISHT

For years now, the center of the village of Tushemisht is the home of a small handicraft market which promotes and offers handicraft works made by the women of this village and beyond. These works include clothing for children and adults made with crochet, children's toys also made with crochet, as well as a variety of artisan food products such as trahana, dumplings, jams of various types, pickles, vinegar, raki, wine, etc. Under this example, in recent years the village of Lin also offers traditional organic food products which are produced and sold by the women of this village at the doorsteps of their homes.









CULINARY

TRADITIONAL CULINARY

The cuisine of the Pogradec region is characterized by traditional dishes prepared at home as instant dishes or as a stored food for the winter. The basis of this cuisine are the dough, meat and fish dishes. Among the dough-based dishes, we mention different types of bread such as wheat bread, corn bread, bread with chickpeas and kulaç or various pies such as lakror, petanik, turtukash, pancakes, përvëlaqe etc. Among the most used meat-based dishes are those with beef, pork, lamb and chicken, such as meat on skewers, yahni meat, meat with rice, meat with onions, baked chicken, fried chicken or meatballs soup, other various soups, etc. Meanwhile, fish-based dishes are an essential element of Pogradec cuisine. Koran fish casserole, which is part of the non-material cultural heritage of Albania and is the most popular of these dishes. Beside that we can mention Koran fish soup or other lake fish dishes which are the favorites of Pogradec citizens and many visitors in summer and winter. In the rich range of traditional dishes from Pogradec region, we cannot leave without mentioning the various desserts such as baklava, oshmare, gjysleme, hasude, revani, halva, sheqerpare, tuntule, syltjash, hashure, qumeshtor etc., as well as the traditional dishes prepared for the winter in in the form of dishes such as trahanaja, dumplings, dromka, peksimaja, semolina, pickled tomatoes, cabbage, whipped cheese,

yogurt sauce, etc. Today, in the city of Pogradec but also outside of it, there are a number of restaurants that offer the traditional cuisine of the region. Within the city of Pogradec, we mention the restaurant Poradeci on Naim Frashëri street, Oborri familiar on Kajo Karafili street, Tradita on the pedestrian street 100 steps towards Europe, Taverna Ndona along the city promenade, as well as the restaurants Kashta, Koço, Zonja nga qyteti and Dallga in Tushemisht.

MODERN CULINARY

In recent years, a number of restaurants in the city of Pogradec and beyond offer modern cuisine, particularly influenced by Italian and Greek cuisine. Sometimes, these restaurants combine elements from traditional Albanian cuisine in their menu, but their basis is modern cuisine, and for this reason they are quite preferred by the citizens of Pogradec and its noumerous visitors. Among them we mention the restaurants located along the promenade of the city of Pogradec such as Rosa e Tymosur, Cavos, Casa di Pizza, Pizza Boulevard, The Change, Poçerina, Foleja etc. Toka in Hudënisht, as well as Dante and Sofra E. Don in Drilon.





BEYOND POGRADEC

MONUMENTAL TOMBS OF SELCA

The Monumental Tombs of Selca are located on the eastern side of the hill called Gradishte, and are an important part of the Illyrian city of Selcë e Poshtme. The tombs are located between the acropolis and the outer quarters of the ancient city. They are carved into the rock of the hill's facade and date back to the IV-III centuries BC Excavations carried out here brought to surface 5 monumental graves which are grouped in three areas that are located about 100 m away from each other. In the first area there are graves no. 1, 2 and 3 carved into the rock, in the second area there is grave no. 4 carved also into the rock, while in the third area there is tomb no. 5 built with a stone vault. These graves have unique values in Albania and the Balkans.



NIÇA

The village of Niça is a mountainous village which lies on a fertile plateau in the north of the province of Gora, which today belongs to the Municipality of Pogradec. The village is known for its antiquity as one of the first inhabited centers of the province of Gora. According to Ottoman documents, in the XVII – XVIII centuries, Niça was a small, well-developed town with about 7,000 inhabitants. Today Niça is a village with very few inhabitants, however it still retains its medieval characteristics with stone houses, churches, cobbled streets and the nearby stone bridge. Among the most important traces inherited from this former civic center are the church of Saint Mary which is located inside the village, some of the houses which show the high economic level of the former inhabitants of Niça, as well as the Niça Bridge.



SAINT MARENA MONASTERY

Saint Marena Monastery is located right next to the village of Llënga, in the province of Mokra e Sipërme. The monastery consists of a complex of small sites such as the church of Saint Marena, the Guesthouse, Najazmë water source and the cave of Saint Marena. The main place in this complex is held by the church and the guesthouse. The Church of Saint Mary is a small one-story building that consists of a nave, a two-story narthex, an open arched south porch and a belfry with two bells. Its interiors are all decorated with frescoes. The altar alcove of the church is separated from the nave by a wooden iconostasis 6.5 m long and 4 m high, which in terms of decoration style is the same as the iconostasis of the churches of Voskopoja and Vithkuqi. The ceiling of the church is made of decorative painted wood. The frescoes of the church are divided into five horizontal bands painted by the master Kostandin Shpataraku. He also painted several icons of the iconostasis, the cross on it, the "beautiful doors" and a balcony with 15 figures and 17 small icons. The painted motifs are typical church motifs of the time, such as scenes from the life of Christ, Saint Mary and Saint Marena herself, to whom the church is dedicated. They all belong to the period of the construction of the church, i.e. 1754.



THE CANYON OF LLËNGA

The canyon of Llënga is located right next to the village of Llënga in the province of Mokra e Sipërme. It has a limestone composition and was created by the karst and erosive activity of the stream that runs through it. The canyon is about 1 km long, 60 m deep and has steep slopes. The residents of the area also call it by the name Gyka e Gurit The canyon is one of the most important natural attractions in Pogradec area. Anyone who visits it can also visit the village of Llënga which is located nearby and still preserves the characteristics of the period of the XVII-XVIII century when it was one of the largest residential centers of the province of Mokra.



"GURI I KAMJES" (KAMJA STONE)

Guri i Kamjes is a very special natural monument. It has a conglomerate composition modeled through centuries by wind and erosion which have given it the shape of a "ship sailing on a green sea. It is located near the Lipova Pass, along the road that leads to the province of Gora. The surrounding area is also called Mal Kamje. It separates the province of Mokra from that of Gora and due to its special characteristics, it has often served as a meeting place for solving problems between the villages of the area. On July 28, 1912, at the foot of "Guri i Kamjes" was held the assembly known as the Treaty of Gora, where the men of the province pledged allegiance to fight against the Turkish invaders.



GOLIK BRIDGE

Golik Bridge is the most unique bridge in Pogradec district. It is located about 40 km west of the city of Pogradec, on the river Shkumbin. The bridge was built on the traces of the old Egnatia road, a branch of which started right from Golik to go along the upper course of the Shkumbin river, thus connecting the province of Mokra (Mokra e Poshtme and Mokra e Sipërme) with the plain of Domosdova on one side and the field of Korça on the other side. The bridge belongs to the XVII century and consists of two arches with a semicircular vault between which is a discharge window with a semicircular vault. The bridge is 17 m long, 3 m wide and 10 m high. It is built with carved stones which are selected to be large and well worked especially in the foot part of the bridge.



TERZIU BRIDGE

The Terziu bridge is located on the border between the villages of Somotinë and Slabinjë, along the road Proptisht - Somotinë - Bishnicë - Llëngë. It rises exactly at the place where the stream of Vërri flows into the river Shkumbin and consists of a single arch. The arch has a span of 8 m, a width of 2.8 m and a height of 5 m, while the entire bridge is 16 m long. It is built with small worked stones which, at the vault, have a composition of smelt and pumice, while in the feet of the bridge they have only a composition of pumice. In terms of construction technique, the bridge belongs to the XVIII century.



LUKOVË LAKES

The lakes of Lukovë are located in the south-western part of Pogradec, on the border with Gramsh district. They have an area of about 10 ha and are of glacial origin. They are known by the names the Big Lake and the Small Lake. The big lake is 1851 m above sea level, while the small one is 1795 m above sea level. They are surrounded by a crown of mixed beech and spruce forests, up to 22 m high and with a trunk diameter of 30 cm.



MALI I THATË (THE DRY MOUNTAIN)

The Dry Mountain is located southeast of the city of Pogradec and 23 km away from it. The highest point of The Dry Mountain is 2288 m above sea level. From this point, the visitor can see, respectively, Lake Ohrid and the two Lakes of Prespa.



VALAMARA

Valamara is a mountain reaching the height 2373 m, located on the border shared among the district of Korça, the district of Gramsh and the district of Pogradec. In the north it borders on "Guri i Topit", and in the south on Lenia. It is mainly made up of ultrabasic rocks. There can be found a lot of glacial reliefs and glacial lakes (above 1600 m). Shkumbin River springs on the eastern slope, while Devolli River springs on the western and southeastern slopes. As concerns vegetation, it is made up of beech and pine forests in the lower part and rich summer pastures in the upper part.



INFO POINT
INSTITUTIONS

- **MUNICIPALITY OF POGRADEC**
  Adress: Bulevardi "Reshit Çollaku"., Pogradec
  Phone number: 083222222
- **POLICE STATION**
  Adress: Bulevardi "10 Dëshmorët e Pojskës", Pogradec
- **FIRE BRIGADE STATIONS**
  Adress: Njësia Administrative Buçimas, Rruga e Vilave

HOSPITAL
- Adress: Rr "Islam Dani", Pogradec
  Phone number: 083224444

ALBANIAN POSTAL SERVICE
- Adress: Bulevardi "Reshit Çollaku", Pogradec
  Phone number: 0682044707

PUBLIC LIBRARY
- Adress: Main square of Pogradec city, Pallati i Kulturës, Pogradec

- **HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF POGRADEC**
  Adress: Bulevardi "Reshit Çollaku", nr.88, Pogradec
  Phone number: 0692623217
- **PUPPET THEATRE**
  Adress: Rr. "1 Qershori", Pogradec
- **MUNICIPAL POLICE**
  Adress: Bashkia Pogradec
  Phone number: 083222222
- **OSHEE (Distribution Operator of Electricity)**
  Adress: Bulevardi "10 Dëshmorët e Pojskës", Pogradec
  Phone number: 0696632580
- **WATER SUPPLY CENTER**
  Adress: Rr. "Rinia", Pogradec.
  Phone number: 083222668

BANKS

- **RAIFFEISEN BANK**
  Monday – Friday Opening Hours 08:30 – 15:00
  Adress: Rruga Rinia, Pogradec
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- **BANKA KOMBËTARE TREGËTARE**
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  Phone number: 083 225 704
  Adress:Rruga Rinia, Pogradec

- **UNION BANK**
  Monday – Friday Opening Hours 08:30 – 15:00
  Phone number: 04 238 9178
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- **NOA BANK**
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- **CREDINS BANK**
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  Adress: Pranë Qendrës Krapi, Pogradec 7300
- **ALB PROGRES**
  Monday – Friday Opening Hours 08:30 – 15:00
  Phone number: 069 420 4565
  Adress: Bulevard, Fan S. Noli, Pogradec 7301
- **FONDI BESA**
  Monday – Friday Opening Hours 08:30 – 15:00
  Phone number: 0692087324
  Adress: Hotel Turizmi, Kati I, Pogradec

PHONE COMPANY SHOPS

ONE ALBANIA

Shop 1: Bulevardi "Reshit Çollaku", first floor Hotel Enkelana.

Shop 2: Rruga Kajo Karafili, next to "Gjergj Pekmezi" school

Shop 3: Rrethrrotullimi në krye të Rruga "Rinia".

VODAFONE ALBANIA

Shop 1: Bulevardi "Reshit Çollaku", tek Hotel Enkelana.

Shop 2: Rr. "Kajo Karafili".

NATIONAL EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Civil Emergency 112

Road police 126

Health Emergency 127

Fire Brigade 128

Police Station 129

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