



# PUKA GUIDE



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**Author:** Riza Tafilaku, Mirjana Pashkaj, Afrim Laçi  
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**Photography:** Afrim Laçi, Enklajd Zeneli  
**Edited by:** Riza Tafilaku  
**Translation:** Sabah Djaloshi, Mary Lou Surgi  
**Graphic design:** “**elephant** graphics” - Gert Alibali

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*The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.*



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*Photo of Puka*

**The Puka Guide describes the numerous tourist, cultural, and spiritual values of the region. Visitors will be surprised and amazed at the spectacular beauty of this area, where generosity and hospitality are part of this**

**great treasure that Puka offers to visitors. This guide was made possible thanks to the support and ongoing work that Puka Municipality is doing for the promotion of cultural, artistic and tourist values in the region.**





### DEAR VISITORS

Welcome to the town of Puka! Puka is a town of culture and history dating back to over 2,000 years, of particular customs and traditions. Once you come to this town, you are given the opportunity to visit the entire area with historical, tourist, and cultural attractions which will remain in your memory for long.

This is an area with diversified relief and of mountainous landscapes, gorges and valleys, canyons, caves, mountains and dense forests, grasslands and meadows, rivers, springs, artificial lakes, waterfalls, etc. The existence of a large number of caves within the area of around 500 km<sup>2</sup>, in attractive locations, with particular forms, with traces of habitation in them and different legends to their history, many of which are still unexplored, are all part of the value that you will discover in Puka.

The presence of forests and high altitude means the air is clean, one of the greatest assets that nature has given this area.

There are wonderful, clean and unexplored places in the natural environment of Puka.

The mountain climate and the greenery of the pine and beech forests are of special curative value. Puka natural conditions are very suitable for development of white water tourism and the development of many sports.

An important aspect of your visit will be getting familiar with the traditions of Puka people, whose noble traditions and habits are shown in their hospitality. You will get acquainted with special ethno-cultural values of the area, such as clothing, traditional songs and dances.

These traditions paired with the particular beauty that nature has bestowed in Puka, will make you to stay and enjoy the pleasures that you will discover in this area.

I want to thank all visitors of Puka and wish you a pleasant stay.

MAYOR  
**Gjon GJONAJ**

## WELCOME TO PUKA

If you want to see some hidden treasures of Albanian territories, we strongly suggest you see this. This is Puka!



*The city of Puka*

In the district of Puka, the population is scattered over a territory with a rich history as indicated by many archaeological sites, castles and traces of the Illyrian walls, with a rich spiritual culture

and particular traditions and customs. In Puka, one can find interesting outdoors, a combination of high mountains and deep valleys, dense forests, pastures and meadows, percolated by

streams, natural fountains and springs of crystal water. Natural beauties of this area are surprising, and equally interesting is the life of northerners in this part of the world, that are characterized by a rich spiritual and material culture created over centuries

and inherited over generations. Natural beauties, rich historical and cultural heritage, well combined with the characteristic features of Puka highlanders, make this area very attractive, and make you willing to get to know, touch and enjoy it...

### GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION

Puka region extends from the ruins of the medieval town of Sarda, on the Drin River to the bridge of the Vezir to the east. Puka district has an area of 1,036 km<sup>2</sup> and falls within the administration of Shkodra Prefecture. It is located on the Shkodar-Kukës-Prizren road axis.

The main center of the district is the town of Puka with approximately 5,500 inhabitants. Fushë Arrëz town is located about 20 km from the town of Puka and created as a town around the first half of 20th century.

The Puka municipality is composed of 5 administrative units: Puka town, administrative units of Qerret, Qelëz, Rrape, and Gjegjan. The town of Puka is situated on an altitude of 838 m above sea level.

Puka natural environment presented succinctly is characterized by mountains, plains, valleys, pastures and meadows and is rich in medicinal plants, abundant springs, cold water and cool climate. Lakes, wild animals and birds are amazing and irreplaceable resources that nature has bestowed to this area.

### THE TOWN AND ITS HISTORY

The name Puka comes from "Via Publica", the old name for the road of pedestrians and convoys which crossed this road, from antiquity until the Middle Ages. This road started from

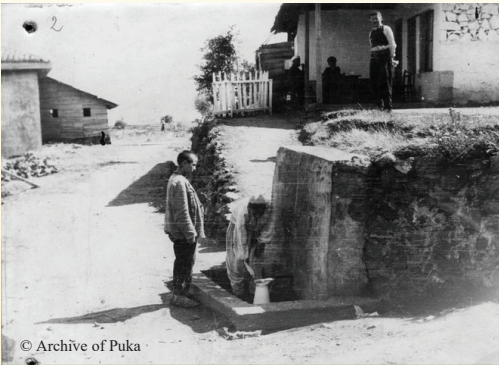
LISSU-SCODRA-KUKES-DARDANI and reached the banks of the Danube River. A rugged mountainous area, mostly with oak, pine and beech forests, lies over these geographical spaces.

© Archive of Puka



Puka has many historical and archaeological sites, of which we can distinguish:

- a) The Castle of Shqelit (Fortress) of Roman era century II-V, toponym (Castela, Stjel - Shqel) Këçire Puka.
- b) Gralishtit Roman– Slavic fortress, century II-VII, toponym Grad - Gralisht Bugjon Puka.
- c) The Dalmacies Fortress of century IV-VIII, Koman Puka.
- d) Castle Zhubi of the Roman– Slavic era, century VI-VII, toponym Zhupan-Zhub.



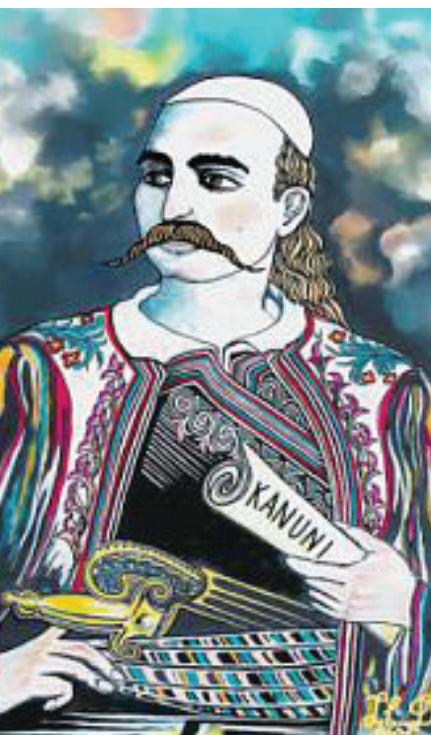
Brook stream 1936

© Archive of Puka

Hill of Hani (Old city)



© Archive of Puka



Lekë Dukagjini

Dukagjin Principality of XIII - XV century encompasses the political, cultural, religious, economic units and Puka territory known as Dukagjin. Frang Bardhi, during 1637 – 1638, uses the term Dukagjin only for the population of Puka. Archaeological resources and multiple toponyms clearly indicate this, such as the oak of Leka, Sofra of Leka, the stronghold of Leka.

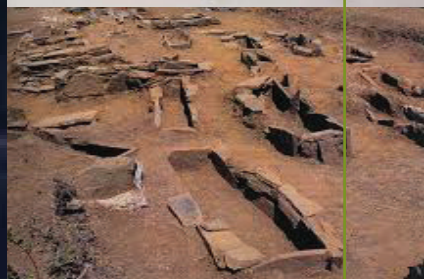
During 1878 - 1881 and 1885 Puka, became a strong supporter of the Albanian League of Prizren, where outstanding Albanian patriots, like Ismail Agë Kryeziu, Imam Puka, Musa Dizdar and others gave great a contribution to the independence from the Ottoman Empire.

During 1911 – 1912, Puka was engaged in the national liberation and independence movement, freeing Puka on 09/07/1912.

Many outstanding personalities from Puka, known as noble families “Gazulli” (John, Andrea and Pal Gazulli) Pal Nicholl and Lek Dukagjini, Shtjefen Gjeçovi, Ismail Kryeziu and many others, have a prominent position in the history of Albania.







*Koman culture. Pictures taken at the Ethnographic Museum of Puka*

During the Illyrian period, the region of Dukagjin (Leknia) was inhabited by the Illyrian tribe of Pirustëve, who were known for skills in extraction and processing of metals.

The establishment and development of the Dukagjin Principality cannot be taken as an absolute unity of this principality; Puka was a territory where Dukagjinas had many properties.

Dukagjini, circa year 1280, had under its possession the tribes of Iballe, Spaç and Fan.

Puka as an ethnographic province, like many other provinces, has its own distinctive features.

Until 1430, the Dukagjins were divided into two branches, and Puka, Iball, Spas, Zadrima belonged to Pal Dukagjin, Nikoll Leka and Stefan Dukagjin branch.



*Migjeni ...*

Migjeni Puka was not only a witness of the good corrosive legend of misery, but also of gods without head, the beauty that kills and of the cherries

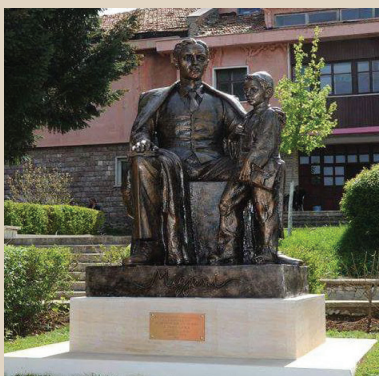
that sought to replace bread. Moreover, he witnessed Puka's mountaineers' patriotism, freedom-loving spirit, spiritual presence, generosity, and loyalty.

*The School Musuem, "Migjeni", Puka*

*The classroom where Migjeni taught*



On the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the arrival of Migjeni in Puka, on 04.18.2016, a statue of Migjeni was placed in the town center. This was made possible by the contribution of a singer from Puka, Mr. Fran Gjoka and sculptor Mr. Ardian Pepa with special care from the Municipality of Puka.



## POPULATION OF PUKA

The Puka Municipality is one of the smallest municipalities in Albania. Approximately 30% of the population lives in the town and the rest in the countryside.

**Table of population distribution in Puka**

No.	Administrative unit	Number of inhabitants	Number of families
1	Pukë, Rrape, Qelëz	9.027	3.068
2	Gjegjan	4.015	1.258
3	Qerret	3.245	1.035
Total of Puka Municipality		16.287	5.361



© A. Laci

Puka



Qelëz

Kalivara Bridge, Gjegjan

Gomsiqe Bridge



**From** a religious perspective, about 70% of the population is Catholic and 30% Muslims. It is

© A. Doçaj



*Bank's Church, Puka*

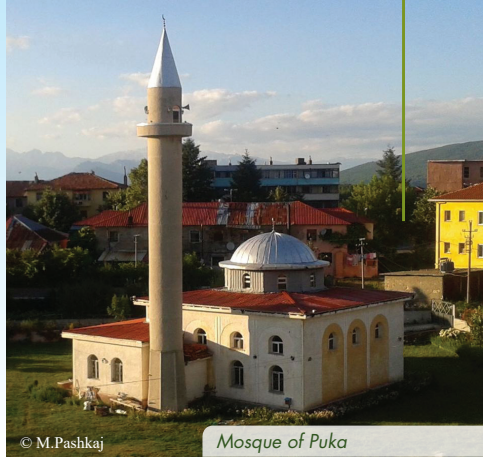
worth mentioning that they have always lived together in understanding and harmony.



© A. Laçi



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*Mosque of Puka*

## ECONOMY

Economic development in Puka district relies heavily on timber industry as well as on the extraction and processing industry of minerals. Puka is one of the richest districts in mineral

resources, such as copper chromium, kaolin, granite, and obsidian. Some of the main sources of these minerals are found in Kabash, Munellë, Qaf-Bari, Tuç, etc.

*Tërbuni forest*



*Crown of Puka*

© E.Zeneli

Other sectors of the economy include the following industries: construction materials, agricultural with silvicultural treatment, livestock and medicinal plants of various types.



*Ore chromium mineral*

© A. Laçi



*Karst of Munella*

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© A. Laçi

The forests are an important asset for the population of Puka and an important source of their livelihood.



© A. Laçi



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## TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES IN PUKA

The **natural environment** of Puka offers many diverse opportunities for tourism development.

The natural environment of Puka with mountains, valleys, beech, pine and oak trees, lawn and meadows rich in medicinal plants, springs and natural fountains with cold water, lakes, wild birds

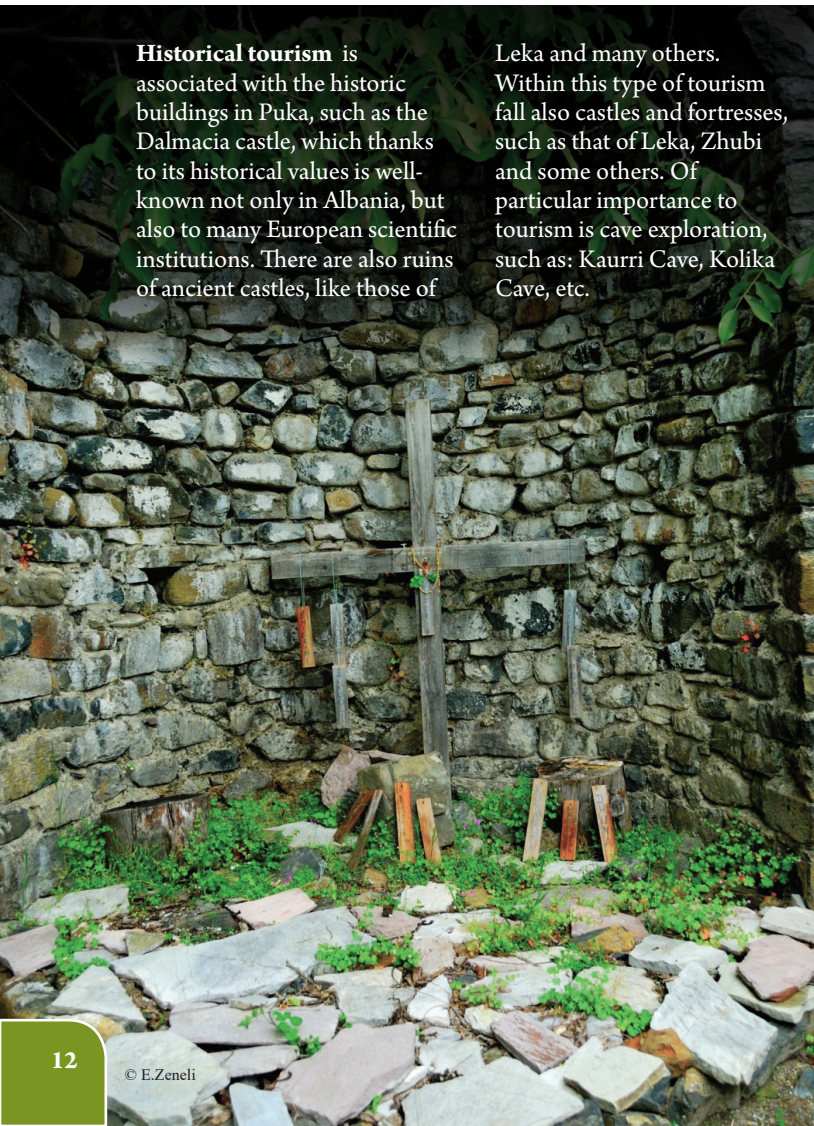
and animals are some of the irreplaceable resources that nature has bestowed to this area.

There are several type of tourism practiced in Puka region:

- Historical tourism
- Green tourism
- White water tourism
- Cultural tourism

**Historical tourism** is associated with the historic buildings in Puka, such as the Dalmacia castle, which thanks to its historical values is well-known not only in Albania, but also to many European scientific institutions. There are also ruins of ancient castles, like those of

Leka and many others. Within this type of tourism fall also castles and fortresses, such as that of Leka, Zhubi and some others. Of particular importance to tourism is cave exploration, such as: Kaurri Cave, Kolika Cave, etc.





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### **St. Paul's Abbey**

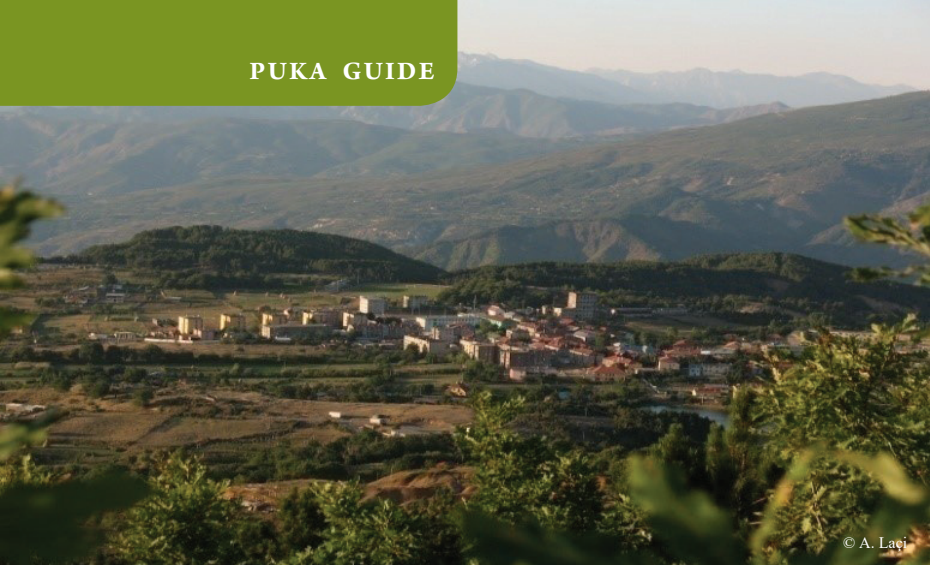
is of historical interest.

It was built at the gorge of Kabash in the fourth century AD, and it was the abbey church (mother church) of all churches of Puka. It is thought to be amongst the oldest in the Balkans.



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*Pictures of Puka*

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## GREEN TOURISM

Most of the territory of Puka has potential for development of green tourism, with amazing, clean and pristine sites - far away from urban noise, industrial pollution and monotony. Green tourism is special due to the breathtaking mountainous landscape, dense forests, ravines, meadows rich in beauties, wild animals and birds, streams and lakes.





Lake Kukaj



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*Memaj Mrizi (Place of shade)*

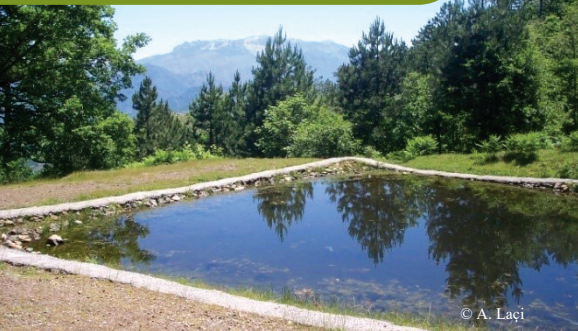


© A. Laçi

All these make Puka a magnificent place not only of recreational value, but also of great curative value.



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## The Mrizi (place of shade) of Memajve

It is situated on the southwest of Rrape village at an altitude of 1.050 m above the sea level, only about 300 m away from the national road Puka-Fushë-Arrëz reaching up the mountains. It is magnificent combination of beauties of meadows, woods and very old oak trees.



*Lynx lynx balcanicus*

There are numerous high mountains in Puka, like Mount Tërbuni with a height of 1,360 m, and Mount Krrabi 1680 m high, Mount Munella 1991 m, gorges of 900-1245 m height, as well as Hamzi and Lak-Roshi Meadows, etc.

The Mount Munella is rich in a variety of animal species, and one of them is the *Lynx lynx* (a rare species in the Balkans); mammals, amphibians and reptiles, birds, vegetation and various other plants. Hence, we there is diversity in an area which is estimated as one of the oldest areas in Albania by scholars.



PICTURE OF DIFFERENT  
SPECIES ON THE MOUNT  
MUNELLA



Roe (*Capreolus capreolus*)

© - PPNEA



Wild goat (*Rupicapra rupicapra*)

© - PPNEA



Wolf (*Canis lupus*)

© - PPNEA



Wild cat (*Felis silvestris*)

© - PPNEA



Landscape of Munella

© - PPNEA



Hare (*Lepus europaeus*)

© - PPNEA



Badger (*Meles meles*)

© - PPNEA



Brown bear (*Ursus arctos*)

© - PPNEA



© - PPNEA

Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)



© - PPNEA

Hedgehog



© - PPNEA

Badger (*Meles meles*)



© - PPNEA

Wild pig (*Sus scrofa*)



Brown bear (*Ursus arctos*)

© - PPNEA



Lake Koman

## WHITE WATER TOURISM

Among beauties of Puka which nature has bestowed is the special attraction of “white” tourism. Waterways and waterfalls on the Drin River, along with the lakes of Koman and Kukës -Fierzë are over 98 km long, where there are ferries or boats to travel on.



Lake Koman





Lake Koman

© E.Zeneli



Zezaj neighborhood



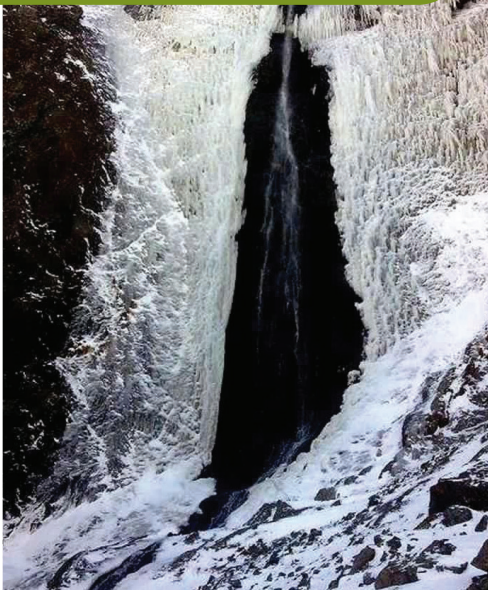
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*Pictures at Kabash Village*

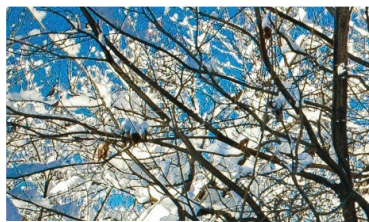


A ride down this river takes you through magnificent gorges and caves where in many places there are relaxing accommodation spots, which add value to this natural attraction.

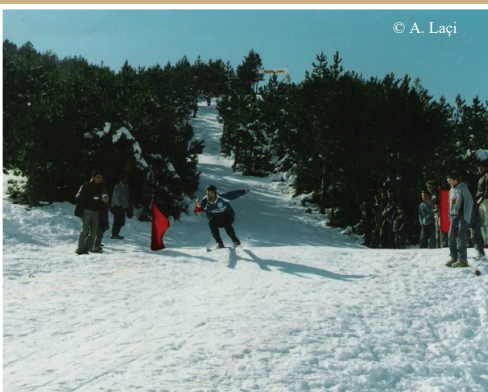
*Scenery of Kukaj Lake, Puka*



*Waterfall at Gjegjan*



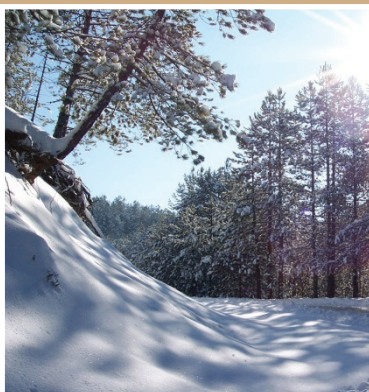
During the 4-5 months of winter, Puka is covered in snow of up to 2 meters.



*Ski-run in Puka*

Places like Qerret, and Puka are very nice places for winter sports.

In this area, where the national skiing race has sometimes been organized, some facilities for skiing and skating have been set up.





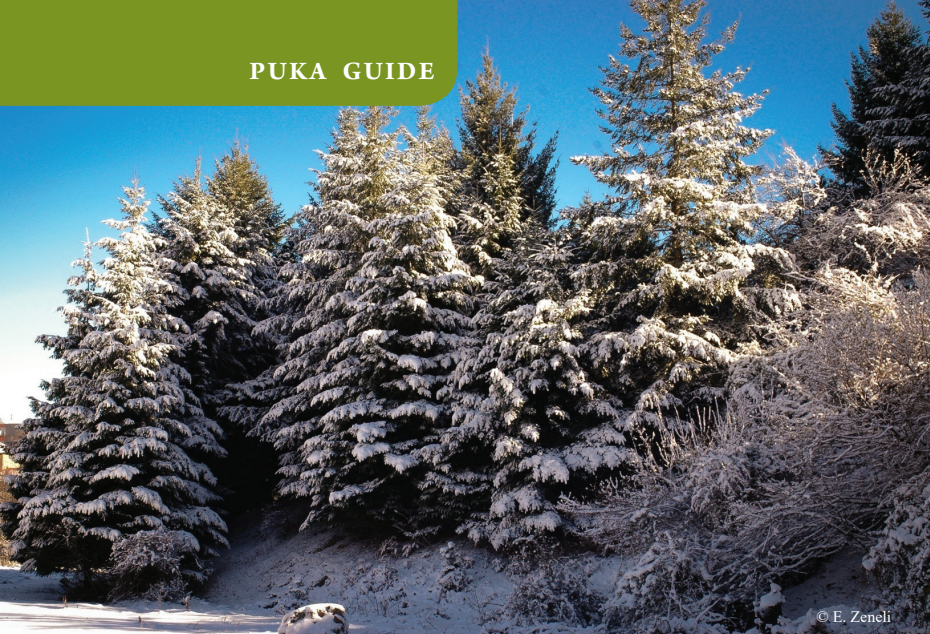


*Chestnuts tree road in Puka*

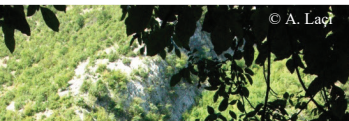


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Lake Koman



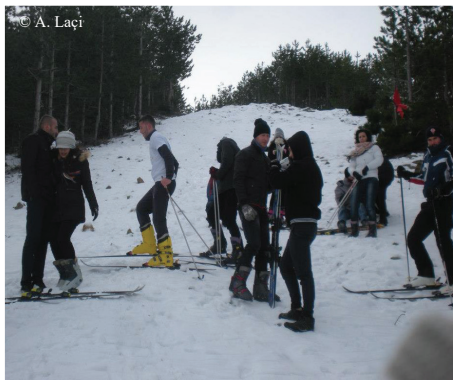
© A. Laçi

It is also worth mentioning that climbing has become a tradition and is exercised at Mounts Munella, Tërbuni, and Guri i Zanave (Ferries' Cliff), the cliff of Këçira, which for mountaineers of Puka, either Albanians or foreign ones are being turned into alpine camps.



Skating on ice

© A. Laçi



© A. Laçi

## CULTURAL TOURISM



Traditions, such as ceramics processing in Gojan (earthen vessels processing), carpentry, musical instruments and characteristic clothing of Puka areas shows that over generations there has been an important heritage/legacy in material culture of the region.

© M.Pashkaj



*Picture of vessels of Gojan, Puka*



*Traditional costumes of Puka taken from the Ethnographic Museum, Puka*



*Clothing from Merturi*

Puka has a rich musical tradition expressed in songs, dances, ballads and lullabies that in most cases are accompanied by musical instruments, like drums, çifteli (plucked string instrument), whistle, etc. In 2001 the Puka Ensemble won the European award “Alfred Toepfer” for culture and art.



*Traditional Ensemble band of dancers “Puka”*



*Woodcarving at the folklore festival*



*The first Albanian violin*



*Çifeli made by artists of Puka*

The composition of this ensemble includes artists from Puka, like “The artist of the people” Ndue Shyti, “Honor of the Nation”, singers: Vitore Rusha, Dava Gjergji, Gezim Ahmeti and Zoja Pali, dancers, such as Riza Hoxha, Shpresa Tërbuni, Rudina Elezi and other well-known artists



*Typical clothing*



*Puka Ensemble*



*Musical instruments*



*Pictures taken from Archive of Puka*

Puka region as an early inhabited center, in line with the historical, natural economic conditions, has managed to maintain its culture as many other regions.

Early folklore traditions are portrayed beautifully in the life of mountaineers, in their songs and dances, of which we may distinguish the music, costumes, and traditional clothing of this area.



*Kabashi dances*

A special attribute to the songs of Puka have been given by “People’s artist”, Ndue Shyti, not only in Albanian territories, but also in other counties of the world, handing down this inherited tradition.



nën kujtesën e

Bashkisë Pukë  
Qendrës Kulturore Pukë  
Shoqatës Kult. Artistike "Puka"

## PAVIONI I PARË I LIBRIT PUKJAN



në Qendrën Kulturore Pukë,  
më 9 qershor 2002

Pictures taken from Archive of Puka

## LOCAL ARTISTS

Local artists have always made a valuable contribution to the preservation and continuation of the values of the area. Artists, writers, scholars, who have become known not only within the

region of Puka, but also countrywide, have been inspired by its wonderful natural environment, stunning mountain forests, snowy peaks, meadows and cold water springs.

Hryes dhe studjues të spikatur të trevave të Pukës ndër vite:

Prof. dr. Elat Selimi Xhemal Meçi Tom Nikolla Frok Haxhia Prendi Ukaj Riza Tafiliku Halit Furiku Mirela Sulaj Ndrecë Mustafa Tone Prençi Gjovanni Alta Gjon Gjon Ton Zmajli Fran Ukaj Mejreme Rinqaj	Idriz Ahmeti Sabah Sinani Petril Nika Hajrush Durra Nikollë Doçi Jak Ukaj Aracilla Brahaj Ndrecë Gjini Jaho Brahaj Bukurje Ymeri Mark Ndo Antigona Marku Shyqiri Dunga Engjëlli Ymeri
--	--

Shtëpi Botuese, me të cilat kanë bashkëpunuar krijuesit të studjuesit pukjanë:

Akademia e Shkencave, Tiranë Shtëpia Botuese e Librit Universitar, Tiranë Shtëpia Botuese "Camaj-Pipa", Shkodër Shtëpia Botuese "Naim Frashëri", Tiranë Shtëpia Botuese "Onufri", Tiranë Shtëpia Botuese "Toena", Tiranë Shtëpia Botuese "Lisitan", Lezhë Shtëpia Botuese "Baça", Tiranë Shtëpia Botuese "Mirdita", Rrëshen Shtëpia Botuese "Europa", Tiranë Shtëpia Botuese "Çabej", Tiranë	Shtypshkronja, ku janë shtypur librat e krijuesve të studjuesve pukjanë:
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"Toena", Tiranë "Shkodra", Shkodër "Vola", Shkodër "Emal", Tiranë	"Geer", Tiranë "Çabej", Tetovë "Euronindija", Tiranë "Europa", Tiranë
--	--

Sponsor Bashkia Pukë

## NATURAL MONUMENTS

There are dozens of places with special charm, which today are classified as Natural Monuments:

1. **Kaurri Cave**
2. **Ammonite fossils of the Lower Triassic in Kçira**
3. **Plateau of Gomsiqe**
4. **Holy Stone**
5. **Chestnut tree of Rrape**
6. **The bushes (oak trees) of the cemetery in Korthpulë**
7. **Mrizi (place of shade) of Ndërlugjeve**
8. **Black Mulberry tree**
9. **The Yew-Tree Pond**
10. **Karst of Munella**
11. **Migjeni acacias**



© A. Laçi



© A. Laçi

These are declared as natural monuments under “On the declaration as protected area of natural monuments.”

A short description of these natural monuments follows.

*Kaurri Cave*





© A. Laçi

*Kaurri Cave*

## 1. Kaurri Cave (The Monk's Cave)

Limestone karst cave with stalactites and stalagmites is located in the vicinity of Mount Kollata and Lëvrushk village. It is 110 m long, 1-5 m wide and 3-8 high, having a down entrance and an exit at the top. It is a karstic cave with stalactites and stalagmites. The remains of a century-old ascetics' monastery, which gives the cave its name, are found at the entrance. It can be visited by taking the rural road Puka- Levrushk.

© A. Laçi



## 2. The Ammonite Fossils of Lower Triask

Are found in Kçira village, 600 m above sea level. Fossils, such as Sagaceras albanikum, Pronorites osmanicus, and Procarnites scanderbegis, etc. have been studied by the Austrian geologist F. Nopca. They can be observed in an area of 4,500 m<sup>2</sup>. It is found on the Puka - Kçirë road.



*The Holy Stone*

## 3. Plateau of Gomsiqe

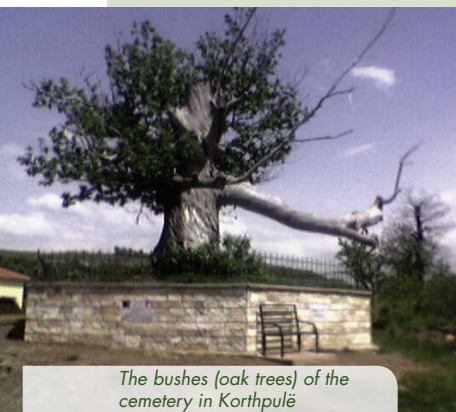
This geological feature located near the village of Gomsiqe (800 m above sea level) and it has the form of a flat plateau as a result of the flattening of the relief thousands of years ago, through erosion under the conditions of relative tranquility of the tectonic plate movements. It is 1.5 km long, and 700 to 750 m wide. It is found on the Puka-Gomsiqe road.

## 4. The Holy Stone

This monument is located in Zezaj neighborhood, to the east of the Puka town and near the road connecting the town with Kabash village. The stories and legends associated with it, which have been transmitted from generation to generation, have turned it into a worthwhile monument. Next to this stone, there is the medieval fortress of Lekë Dukagjini, built in the 15th century.

## 5. The bushes (oak trees) of the cemetery in Korthpulë

They are found at the cemetery of Korthpulë village, Administrative Unit of Luf-Qerret, 500 m above sea level. There are two oak trees, with a height of 15-16 m and a common wreath between 70 and 75 m<sup>2</sup>, a trunk diameter of 1-2 m over 300 years old. It is can be reached via the rural road Pukë-Gomsiqe-Korthpulë.



*The bushes (oak trees) of the cemetery in Korthpulë*

## 6. Chestnut tree of Rrape

It is located 780 m above sea level, at the center of the Administrative Unit of Rrape, near the national road Puka - Fushe-Arrëz.

## 8. Black Mulberry tree

It is located 800 m above sea level, near the town of Puka. It is a black mulberry tree with a height of over 9 m, a trunk diameter over 1 m, about 400 years old. It can be found in Puka town.

## 9. The Yew-Tree Pond

Ndodhet 650 m mbi nivelin e detit, në luginën e Gomsiqës, pranë fshatit Pevzhë. Përbëhet nga drurë tisi, me lartësi mbi 9 m, diametër të trungut mbi 80 cm, moshë rreth 250 vjeçare. Vizitohet gjatë kalimit të rrugës Pukë- Fushë Kuçi.

## 10. Karst of Munella

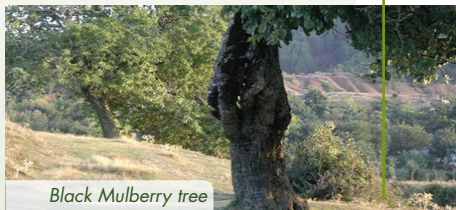
It is located near the village of Tuç, Qafë-Mali administrative unit, on the slope of Mount Munella, 1800-1990 m above sea level. It is typical of karstic landscape with pits, funnels, karstic wells, etc. It can be visited via road Pukë-Mali i Munellës.

## 11. The acacia of Migjeni

They are located at the Migjeni Museum in the town of Puka. There are some acacia trees, under the shadow of which the great poet Migjeni would rest.

## 7. The Mrizi (place of shade) of Ndërlugjeve

It is 800 m above sea level, near Meçe village, in the Administrative Unit of Rrape. There are 4 oak trees over 200 years old with a height of 15-16 m, diameter of trunk 90-100 cm and perimeter 1.7-2 m. It can be found on the road the Puka-Meçe.



Black Mulberry tree



© E. Zeneli

The Yew-Tree Pond



© - PPNEA

Karst of Munella

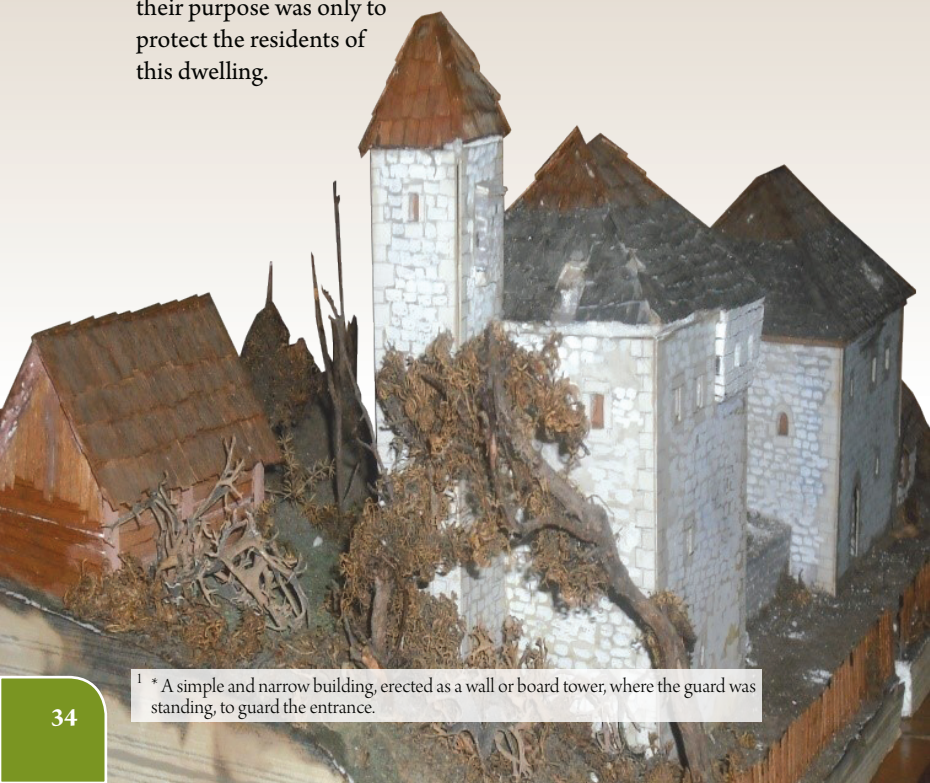


Acacia, "Migjeni" Museum, Puka

## TOWER "KARAKOLL"<sup>1</sup>.

Since ancient times, Puka has been an important station on the road that connected the Adriatic Sea with the inland Balkans. Rich in popular culture, as well as in material culture, many dwellings had been built as towers. These characteristic buildings give a special charm to the area.

When Edith Durham passed visited the villages of Puka in 1908, she was impressed by one particular building. "It is the most interesting building I saw in Northern Albania," said the English researcher about the tower-dwelling in the village Kokodë. They were equipped with a turret and their purpose was only to protect the residents of this dwelling.



<sup>1</sup> \* A simple and narrow building, erected as a wall or board tower, where the guard was standing, to guard the entrance.



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*Pictures of different caves*

## CAVES

The Puka district is well-known for its numerous caves. Over 50 of them have been identified to-date. Some of them are found near inhabited areas or ancient sites for shelter and safety. We may mention the Zana's Cave (fairies) near the Dalmacies Castle; the Pigeons Cave in Buzhalë; the Kaurri Cave in Levrushk; the Kolika Cave ; the two Eagle Caves in Buzhala; Bojdan's Cave near Bushat; the Wolf Cave in Terbutun; the Cave in the Prozhem; the Shqeli Cave in Kishagji, etc. Their length and size varies. The construction itself and the entrance walls that are still preserved and are of great interest are thought to belong to the 7th-8th centuries. These caves are a tourism asset of Puka.



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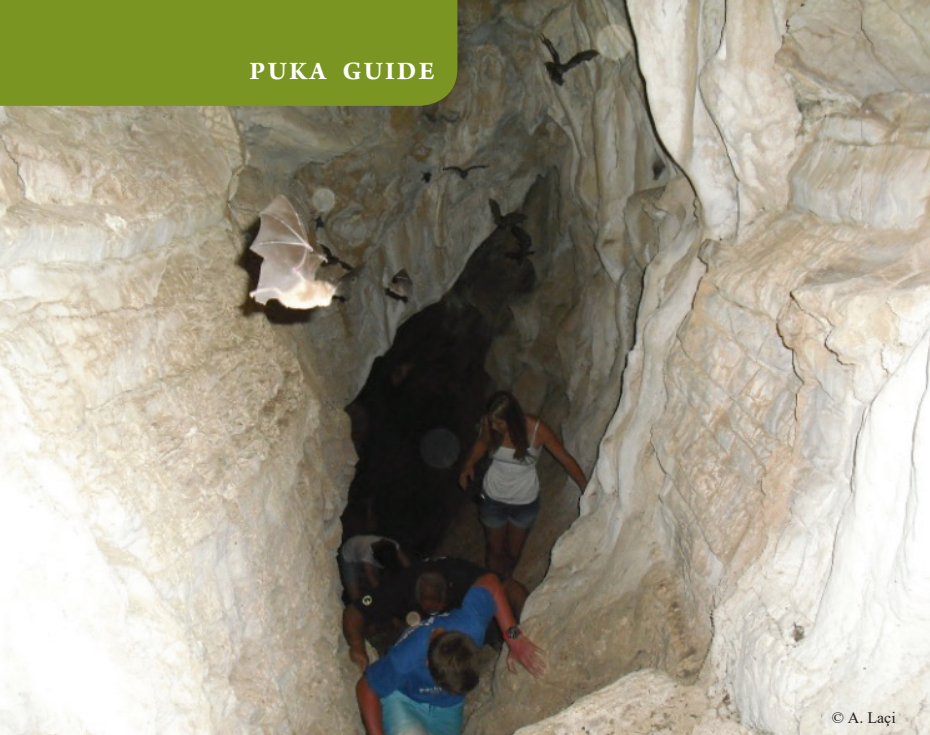
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*Pamje nga shpella e Kolikes*

## The Kolika Cave

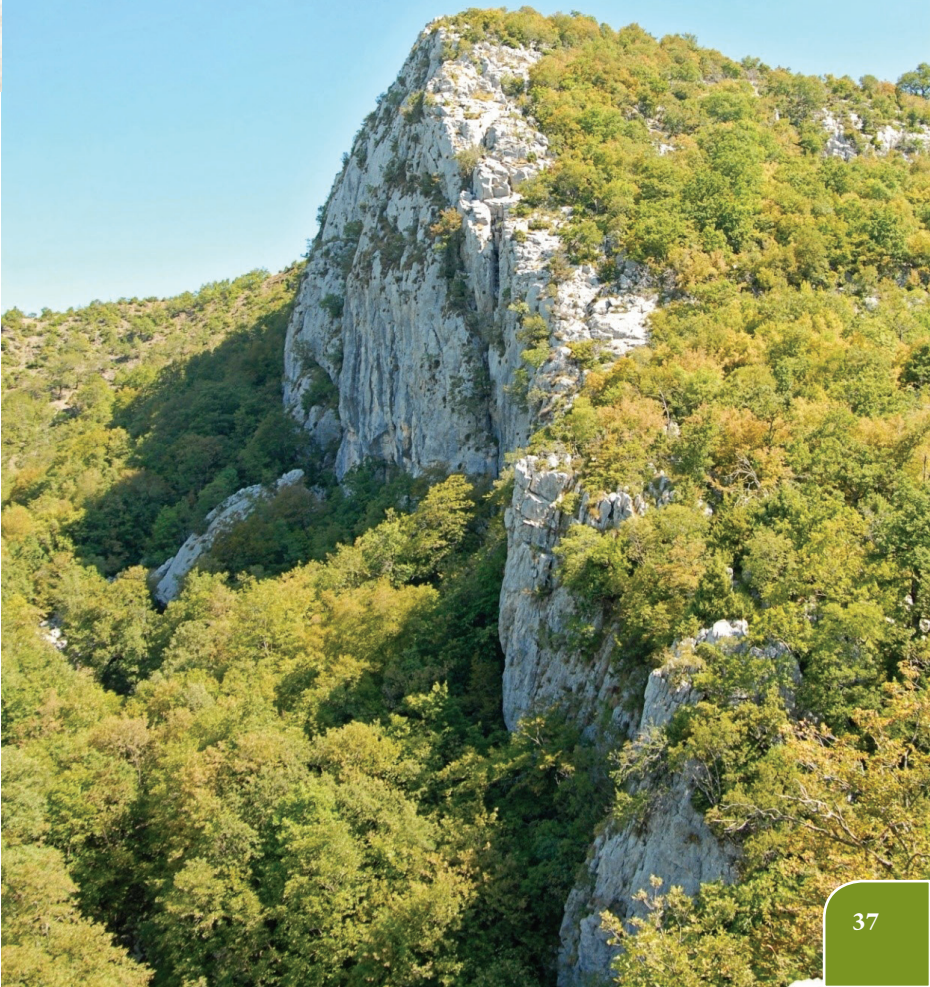
The Kolika Cave remains an interesting place for exploring for its length. Situated in the village of Ukth, it is a karstic cave for which many fables have

been made that prove its great length, yet it is not explored by speleologists. Lesa Gorge with its natural beauty found in the vicinity of the cave.



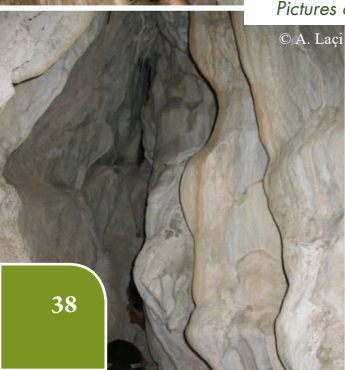
## The Cliff of Fairies (Zana)

It is located in the north-east of the Qerret village, at a height of 680 m above sea level. Apart from the cliff, there is a cave, an old mill, and high pasture bearing the same name, making this a very attractive and impressive site to visit. Inside you can hear the “fairies” – sound made by underground waters.





*Pictures of caves*



## The Shqeli Cave

Presently, the Shqeli Cliff with Shqeli Cave are the main natural base, which render this place suitable for a strong fortress prior to the Roman invasion.

This castle is located 12 km to the southwest of Puka town, at the beginning of the road from Dushi village to Gomsiqe e Vogël village, on the foot of the mountains covered in forest, full of narrow mountain gorges and deep valleys making this place an attractive site on the Shkodar-Puka-Dardani road.





*Here, one can see the national costumes of the region and part of the activity of the musical ensemble "Puka", since its establishment in 1948 to the present day*



© Archive of Puka

## ETHNO - CULTURAL EXPOSITION OF PUKA

In the center of the Puka town, on the first floor of the Palace of Culture building is found the Ethno-Cultural Exposition Hall and Museum of Puka. The exposition starts with the Dalmacies Koman culture, displaying vessels and utensils of iron, clay, wood, embroidery, musical instruments etc.



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Picture of the ethnic-culture exposition, Puka



© Arkivi - Pukë

First Albanian violin made in Puka

Of special importance are the First Albanian violin produced in Puka, and the European Prize “Alfred Topfer” of 2001



European Art Prize 2001

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9-Year-School "Migjeni"

## The Museum School "Migjeni"

At the entrance to the Puka town, one will immediately face the 9-year-school "Migjeni" of Puka. It bears the name of the great poet Migjeni, who had worked for some time as a teacher and head-teacher in Puka.



A. Laçi

School Museum "Migjeni"

Teacher Migjeni in this school found inspiration for writing some of his masterpieces, like "Zeneli", "Cherry", "Gods without heads" etc.

© Arkivi - Pukë



## "ISMAIL XHEMALI" FOOTBALL STADIUM



© E.Zeneli

This is a sports facility named after the football player Ismail Xhemali with a capacity of over 2500 people and a very comfortable infrastructure. The stadium is surrounded by a unique pine and chestnut green forest, forming a “crown”. The stadium was named after the talented footballer of Puka, Ismail Xhemali, who contributed for many years to the football team of Puka, “Tërbuni”. Puka also participates in many national activities over the years in many sports, such as football, basketball, volleyball, wrestling, mountaineering, skiing, etc.



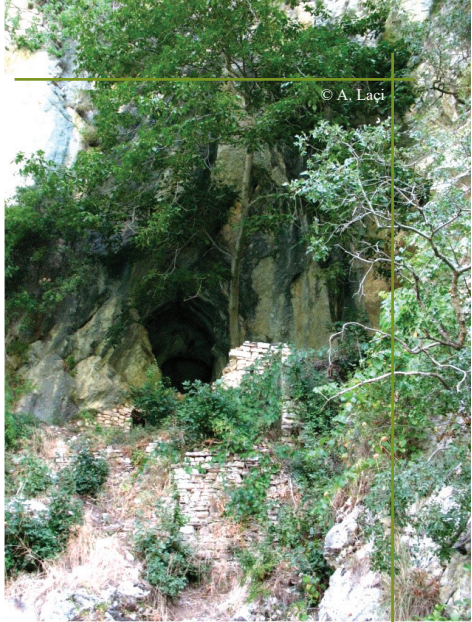
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## THE CASTLE OF DALMACIA

The castle of Dalmacia is located near the Koman village. Research conducted throughout the Castle over the years (1961, 1982, 1983 etc.) has fully proven that it belongs to Early Middle Ages. Basic features of this culture can be observed in the cemetery architecture and objects found there. In the cemetery of the fortress there are also two-facade roof tombs. Many items have been found on the site: work tools, weapons, ornaments, knives, spears, earrings, hooves, bracelets, and more. These prove that in VI-VII centuries there was an active life and continuation of the Illyrian-Arber culture in the area. The Castle of the Dalmacia.



© A. Laci



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In the city of Puka there is also an **Infopoint** which offers services and information to foreign and local visitors, including some traditional handicraft. This is how you can contact this office:

**mob:** +355692886006

**email:** dritanfroku@hotmail.com







## FOOD AND DRINK IN PUKA

Puka cuisine adds its own special taste to traditional Albanian foods.

### Traditional Typical Food and Drinks:

- Fli,
- eggs with milk cream,
- porridge,
- grits with meat pouring, etc.
- Puka beer,
- local wine,
- different juices from fruits, Lajthiza, Bora and Mida bottled water, etc.



### Restaurants:

- Hotel Tourism 'Puka'
- the Guest house of Laçi
- Gjuetari
- Universi
- Korabi
- Qetësia

## CAMPING

Camping opportunities are numerous despite the fact that there are no facilities for them yet. Spaces as well as agreements with inhabitants for the utilization of their territories make it possible to put up tents, in safe conditions suitable for camping, near the town of Puka, Krrab, etc.





## LOCAL TRADITIONAL FEASTS

If you are to visit Puka during the year, you will enjoy and participate in the various feasts that Puka organizes. You will get acquainted with the customs and the local traditions and will often be surprised and enjoy yourself.

- "Puka's Culture day"- June 9;
- "Eco-Tourism Day"-August 24;
- "Cultural Heritage Day"-September 10;
- "Agro-Puka Fair"- "Last Saturday of September";
- "Sofra of Puka" on the First Sunday of November;
- "Liberation Day", November 20.



## AKOMODIM, HOTELE, BUJTINA



Hotel Puka HTP  
Qendër, Pukë

1. **Hotel Tourism Puka**, with an accommodating capacity of 70 persons.  
**mob:** +355 67 20 70304  
**e-mail:** valbona.rexha@yahoo.com
2. **Përparim Laçi's guesthouse**, with an accommodating capacity of 65 persons.  
**mob:** +355 68 20 56472  
**e-mail:** perparimlaci@gmail.com



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## ADVENTURE PARK OF PUKA AND THE ZIPLINE

The Aventure Park of Puka includes a zipline and an adventure park with about 25 games for all ages, as well as other attractive games. This zipline is the longest line in the Balkans and faster than other ziplines in the world.



In this park, located within the city of Puka, near to the artificial lake, many natural elements are used. The park is an added value to mountain tourism and urban transformation of the city into a modern European alpine city. The idea of this project started as an initiative to give more value and to develop the tourist-economic area of Puka.

This is a must visit site because having fun outdoors is the most precious gift you can do to yourself.



USEFUL CONTACTS

<b>Prefix 00212</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
Hospital	+35521222222
Firefighting brigade	+355 128
Post	+35521222647
Pharmacy	+35521222579
Police Station	+355129