



Kosovo

Includes ➔

Pristina.....	202
Peja (Peć).....	207
Prizren.....	208

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Tiffany (p205)
- ➔ Renaissance II (p205)
- ➔ De Rada Brasserie (p205)
- ➔ Ego (p209)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Swiss Diamond Hotel (p205)
- ➔ Dukagjini Hotel (p207)
- ➔ Han Hostel (p203)
- ➔ Hotel Prizreni (p209)

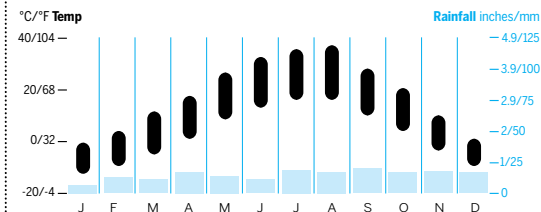
Why Go?

Kosovo is Europe's newest country and a fascinating land at the heart of the Balkans that rewards visitors with welcoming smiles, charming mountain towns, incredible hiking opportunities and 13th-century domed Serbian monasteries just for starters. It's safe to travel here now, and indeed is one of the last corners of Europe that remains off the beaten track for travellers.

Kosovo declared independence from Serbia in 2008, and while it has been diplomatically recognised by 110 countries, there are still many nations that do not accept Kosovan independence, including Serbia. The country has been the focus of massive aid from the international community, particularly the EU and NATO, who effectively run the entity politically and keep peace between the ethnic Albanian majority and the minority Serbs. Barbs of its past are impossible to miss, however: roads are dotted with memorials to those killed in 1999, while NATO forces still guard Serbian monasteries.

When to Go

Pristina



Apr Pristina International Film Festival (PriFest) brings a touch of glamour to the capital.

May–Sep You don't have to worry about high-season crowds in Kosovo!

Aug The excellent DokuFest in Prizren is Kosovo's best arts event.



Kosovo Highlights

- 1 See the sights in Pristina's charming **bazaar area** and discover this bustling capital.
- 2 Breathe deep at Peja's Saturday **Cheese Market** (p207).
- 3 Buy local wine and cheese at the serene 14th-century **Visoki Dečani Monastery** (p278).
- 4 Wander the picturesque streets of Prizren's charming **old town** (p208).
- 5 Trek around the **Rugova Mountains** (p207).
- 6 Visit Kosovo's fabulous new **Bear Sanctuary Pristina** and see rescued bears living in excellent conditions (p276).

PRISTINA

☎ 038 / POP 198,000

Pristina (pronounced 'prish-tee-na') is a city changing fast and one that feels full of optimism and potential, even if its traffic-clogged streets and mismatched architectural styles don't make it an obviously attractive place. Far more a provincial town than great city, Pristina makes for an unlikely national capital, and yet feels more cosmopolitan than the capitals of many larger Balkan nations

due to the number of foreigners working here: the UN and EU both have large presences here and the city feels rich and more sophisticated as a result.

👁 Sights

👁 Bazaar Area

★ **Ethnographic Museum** HISTORIC BUILDING (Rr Iliaz Agushi; admission by donation; ☎ 10am-5pm) This wonderful annex of the Museum