

REGIONAL REPORT – KOSOVO – SEP 2016



Project Management Update from Kosovo

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Majlinda Kelmendi makes history; first gold medal for Kosovo at Rio 2016

Kosovo participated for the first time in an International Olympic Games Tournament at Rio 2016.



Majlinda Kelmendi, 25-year-old, representing the Republic of Kosovo, won a gold medal by defeating Odette Giuffrida (Italy) in the final of women's 52 kg event to add Games

gold to the two world titles and three European crowns she's won since 2013. She was already the golden girl of judo -- now she has the medal to go with it. The world No. 1, who represented Albania four years ago, gave Kosovo its first medal since becoming a member of the International Olympic Committee two years ago. This is the first Olympics at which athletes can compete under the flag of Kosovo. "I'm so happy," she told reporters.

"To be honest, I came here for the gold medal, but it's crazy. I'm so happy for me, for my coach, for all my country. This is the first time that Kosovo is part of the Olympics, and for the first time, I think gold is huge. "It means a lot. People, especially kids in Kosovo, look to me as a hero. "I just proved to them that even after the war, even after we survived a war, if they want something they can have it. If they want to be Olympic champions, they can be -- even if we come from a small country, a poor country." Kosovo now ranks 54 (out of 78 listed) after Rio2016 in the List of Countries by Medals won.

National Geographic Travel video of the week: Kosovo

This week, Joerg takes us to the heart of the Balkans to explore historic Kosovo



Video link: <http://www.natgeotraveller.co.uk/smart-travel/travel-video-week-kosovo/>

Kosovo has extraordinary beauty, vibrant city life and friendly people. This is how the prestigious British magazine "National Geographic Traveller" describes our country, which chose to present the Republic of Kosovo in video of the week. This week, Joerg takes us to the heart of the Balkans to explore historic Kosovo, writes the magazine by referring to the filmmaker, who through the focus of his camera describes Kosovo in a video clip that lasts about three minutes. The video begins with the footage from the

dawn in the city of Prizren and ends with images of sunset that gives a glow to this beautiful historic city.

Filmmaker Joerg Daiber, besides Prizren, has also filmed Brod, Mirusha waterfalls, city of Peja and Rugova canyon, by highlighting most attractive locations that he found at this landlocked country, writes "National Geographic Traveller", reports KultPlus.

"Kosovo may not be on the travel bucket list for many people. The Kosovo War seems somehow not too long ago and the lack of beaches makes this country a white spot on the travel map. However, if you do go there you will be amazed by the extraordinary beauty of the back country, the vibrant city life and friendly people ", writes the prestigious magazine. Magazine "National Geographic Traveller (UK)" was published for the first time in UK in December 2010, by joining the wide family spread throughout the world under the trademark "National Geographic Traveller" (USA), which is one of most read magazines in the world.

National Geographic: Kosovo, one of Europe's most exciting – and economical – adventure travel destinaion



Ski slopes in Brezovica, Kosovo

PHOTOGRAPH BY BENNY ISLAMI, THE NEW YORK TIMES/REDUX

Why Go Now: While much has been written about the thriving café culture of Pristina, Kosovo's relentlessly bohemian, if aesthetically dreary, capital, Kosovo's real draw is in the country's south. The medieval city of Prizren—a castle-topped hill town of Ottoman hammams and 14th-century basilicas—is a perfect base from which to hike (or ski) in Kosovo's Sharr Mountains, or to simply wander the city's forested riverside behind the fortress hill. Well-preserved, without the sterility of renovated "old towns" in Balkan

neighbors like Sarajevo, Prizren's easily walkable historic district is a labyrinth of terracotta roofs, minarets, and red-umbrella-roofed cafés.

Don't Miss: Negotiate — if you don't speak Albanian, many younger Kosovars speak some English and older generations in the region speak at least a smattering of German—for a vertiginous hourlong taxi ride (about \$20) from Prizren into Brod, an overgrown village of stone houses (and a single bakery) in the heart of the Šar Mountains. The heartland of the equestrian Gorani people (the village is said to have more horses than cars), Brod may not have much in the way of hotels (a taciturn old man named Biligap, discoverable by asking around, rents his somewhat dusty second home to travelers at \$20 a bed), but somewhat impetuous horses (and guides, which are highly recommended) are easy to rent. The hiking and riding trails around Brod vary by the season from wildly green to crisply golden.

If roughing it does not appeal, the incongruous chalet-style [Hotel Arxhena](#) is a 40-minute walk or a 10-minute drive into the mountains. It offers a resort-style experience, complete with access to ski slopes from \$43, and an inexplicable flock of live garden peacocks.

Sources:

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