

## The Panoramic Tour of Prizen

**22 April 2017**

**09:00** Departure from the conference center

Professional and experienced licensed guide during the tours.

Transportation by a comfortable AC non smoking Luxurious car / Van with professional driver.

**18:00** Returning to the hotel

**Price: FREE**

**Historical Places**

**Prizren**

**Note: Only, the museums entrance fee and lunch will be paid by the participants.**

## Historical Places Information

### Prizren



**Prizren** was established in a convenient location as an important trading town where old roads passed toward the Adriatic coast and the interior of the Balkan Peninsula. Many civilizations, including the Roman and Byzantine, settled in Prizren throughout history but the Ottoman Empire was the most influential empire to rule there for 550 years. In the era of Roman rule it was called Theranda. After the Romans, under Byzantine dominance, it was referred to as Prizdrijana. When Fatih Sultan Mehmet conquered the town in 1455 it was avowed as Purzerin, which means "full of jewelry." The city's long tradition of religious and ethnic tolerance stemming from the Ottoman notion of "la convivencia," which means "the art of living together," is still apparent in the close proximity of the city's mosques, dervish lodges and Catholic and Orthodox churches. Today Prizren is a true open-air museum. It is located on the slopes of the Sharr Mountains and on the banks of the Bistrica River. Thanks to its well-preserved architecture, the town is rich in historical structures. An old stone bridge that serves as Prizren's landmark was built by the Ottomans in the first half of the 16th century and touches the two shores of the Bistrica River. In 1979, heavy floods washed the bridge away but it was renovated in 1982. Şadırvan is the name of the city center, a word

meaning "fountain with many streams." There is a small fountain in the middle of the square which interlaces oriental and western styles of architecture. The square is located at the center of a mosque and two churches. When the Ottomans first arrived in Prizren, a commander of Fatih Sultan Mehmet named Isa bey built a namazgah (open-air mosque) in a very short time so worshippers could partake in common prayers together. It was the first cultural Islamic monument in the city. Restoration work on the mosque was done by the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA) in 2010. There are more than 20 mosques in the city. One of the most important is the Mosque of Sinan Pasha. It was built in 1615 by Sofi Sinan Pasha, the Ottoman Governor of Bosnia. The mosque overlooks the main street of Prizren and is a dominant feature of the town's skyline with its huge dome and elegant minarets. A madrasa and a library once belonged to it too.