



- Kufiri i Bashkise / Municipality Border
- Rrugë Dytesore / Secondary Roads
- Port detar / Seaport

- Shetitore / Promenade
- Komisariat Policie / Police Station

- Lulishte / Public Park

### SHPJEGUËS I NUMRAVE NË HARTE

### **NUMBERS EXPLANTORY ON THE MAP**

- **Memoriali / The memorial**
- Obelisku / The Obelisc
- Kalaja / Castle
- Kisha e Zojës Nunciate /
- **Our Lady of Annunciation Church**
- Shetitorja e Drinit / Drin Promenade
- **Kisha Ortodokse / The Orthodox Church** Katedralja katolike / Catholic cathedral
- Xhamia e Lezhës / The Mosque of Lezha
- Ura e vjetër / The Old Bridge
- **Muret fortifikues / Fortifying walls**
- Akrolisi / Acrolissus 13) Kisha e Shelbuemit /
- The church of the Redeemed
- 14 Kompleksi skulpturor i Gjerg j Fishtës
- / The sculpture complex of Gjergj Fishta
- 15 Shtëpia e Sali Bajramit / The house of Sali Bajrami
- Pallati i Kulturës / House of Culture
- 17 Kompleksi i shkollave / The school complex

# INFO

Sipërfaqja / Surface: 508 km² Popullsia / Population: 108 352 banorë Dendësia / Density: 213 banorë/km<sup>2</sup> Perqindja Urbane / Urban Population: 60 % Perqindja Rurale / Rural Population: 40 % Numri i qyteteve / Urban towns: 2 Numri i fshatrave / Rural towns: 65 Njesite Administrative / Administrativ Units: 10 Kodi Postar / Post Code: 4501-4509 Prefiksi telefonik. / Phone Prefix:+355 (0) 215 Web: www.lezha.gov.al

2018 - Designed: Hekuran Koka, Evaristo Coli

www.cci-lezhe.al





The tourist office in the city of Lezha is on "Gjergj Kastrioti" square (Main Municipal square), right in front of the Scanderbeg memorial. It also serves as ticket office for the Memorial. Opening hours: 08:00 to 20:00 every

Memorial Open o8:00 to 20:00 every day; Castle open 08:00- 19:00, (Ticket 200 ALL, 100 ALL for groups and students).

Check www.lezha.gov.al 4 more info.

Lezha is small enough to visit the whole of it by walking. However there is a scheduled timetable of busses and microbuses for visiting nearby destinations. Bus to Shengjin long from 07:00 - to 18:00, Summer season 06:00 to 21:00, departure at the main station near the bridge. Busses to Tale Beach 7:00 to 18:00, departure near the Bazaar at the end of "Luigj Gurakuqi" street. Busses for Tirana (6:00 to 17:00 winter; 6:00 to 19:00 summer),

Check www.lezha.gov.al for the exact time-

Shkodra and Durrës part daily and in high

Internet Free Wi-Fi available at almost every bar, restuarant and hotel or rented room. Free Wi-Fi on main centers and on the beach offered by the mobile companies. However in the city there are different Internet shops where you can use a computer, printer, scanner or photocopy. Cost at less than 100 ALL per hour, and 5 ALL per printed b/w copy. Money: There are several ATMs in the city of Lezha and Shengjin, who often give also Euro besie ALL, there is also one ATM in Shenkoll. Plenty of exchange shops, all reliable, would convert your money to ALL. For you best security, do not

Electrical supply: In Albania the power sockets are of type C and F. The standard voltage is 220 V and the standard

Water: Water supply in Lezha and Shengjin is made by the Lezha's Acqueduct. The tap water is normally drinkable,

however check with the hotel for additional information. Health: Lezha has one Regional Hospital and one Maternity hospital. Every town has its own health center, while in the summer time, the major beaches are served by extra personnel. Take the usually Mediterranean precautions, antimosquitoes and sun creams necessary in summer time.

# Lezha's dates

Jan. 17, 1468

The archaeological material, discovered in Blinisht, Troshan, Dajç, Kallmet, Spitën, Malësi dhe Lezhë, the 120 Bronxe axes found in Torovica shows a series of pre-historical dwellings in an uninterrupted sequence down to the Illyrian ethnos.

Acroliss, the first Illiro-Albanians settlement in Mt. Shelbuemi 8th c. BC

A Greek colony under Dionis of Syracuse was founded

231 - 227 BC Under Queen Teuta, Lezha becomes a key city, home to one of the most important fleets in the Mediterranean.

King Gent, the last Illyrian King was defeated by L. Anicius Gallus, and Lezha enters Roman rule.

Marc Anthony landed in Nympheum (Shengjin) to assist

Julius Caesar in the Battle of Dyrrachium against Pompey The Teodosius Line passes through Lezha making it part of 395 AC

the Byzantine Empire.

The Castle of Lezha is part of the great fortifications made by VI century AC Emperor Justinian the Great.

Middle ages It is a dark part of history, with some events now and then, and changing Lords now and then.

Venetian Republic takes the city of Lezha from the Dukagjini

March 2, 1444 The Albanian Princes gather to form the League of Lezha, an alliance against the Ottoman threat.

Gjergj Kastrioti- Scanderbeg dies in Lezha and is buried in

After Venetians abandoned Lezha, the Ottomans took over

and burned the castle. The Castle of Lezha has been reconstructed as a fortified

center under the Rule of Suleiman the Magnificent

The Concil of Lezha (ARBER) is held in Merqi. January 1703

the St. Nicholas Cathedral

Lezha becomes part of the independent state of Albania 20 Nov. 1944

Lezha is liberated from the Nazi Occupation

The local newspaper of Lezha "Koha Jonë" (Our Time) becomes the first opposition media against the communist dictatorship, the first rock band of Albania "Djemt e detit" (Boys of the sea) is created.

March 7, 1991 The port of Shengjin is left to the people who want leave in the ships anchored in what is called the Exodus of Albanians.



Police: 129

Hospital: 112; 127

Firefighter: 128

Municipality:

021522570

The millenary inheritance in Lezha has left its traces, which can mainly be observed in the archeological zones, the upper Archeological Zone surrounding the castle, and the lower zone, in the heart of the city, around the Memorial of Scanderbeg. The Castle itself bears in its walls some high testimony, with history in layers in its walls.

The Memorial of Scanderbeg is one of the pilgrimage sites for all Albanians, as it is the tribute to the symbol of the modern Albania, the National Hero, Gjergj Kastrioti, Scanderbeg.

The 2000 years old Via Zenta (the ancestor of the modern Blue Corridor), connecting the Via Egnatia to Dalmatia has left its visible traces all through Lezha, with its entry port in the Lower Archeological area to the old bridges and track in Zadrima.

The cult objects in Lezha, old as religions, will take you through a spiritual journey, trying to understand the need to believe of a ever free people. The Franciscan Monastery, founded By St. Francisco of Assisi himself in the year 1221, is a monument to modern faith, while the churches of St. Veneranda, St. George, the saint patron of the city St. Nikolla, bear testimony to old beliefs. And through this, the Mosques, the Tekke, the orthodox church of Metamorphosis, the new evangelists churches,









P SHK,

Scanderbeg Memorial is the place that hosted the League of Lezha on 2 March 1444 and where our national hero GjergjKastriot- Skenderbeg was buried on 17 January 1468. It has served as an object of cult, both as a church and mosque at different historical stages. The object, belonging to the 14th century, is in the form of a basilica and is 17 m tall and 8m wide. In its walls hangs a fresco of Saint Nicholas. According to legends, when the Turks invaded Lezha in 1478, they destroyed and opened the grave of Scanderbeg; they used his bones, covered them in gold and silver and used them as talisman to bring them good fortune in battles. The memorial of Scanderbeg is one of the most important monuments in Albanian history. In addition to the walls of the church, in this object, you will also find an apse with the sculpture of Scanderbeg, the fresco of Saint Nicholas, windows and three arches on the door of the church. 25 bronze shields which mark the 25 most important battles of Scanderbeg hang on the wall. On the marble plate sit copies of the sword and helmet of Scanderbeg.



### SHËNGJIN BEACH

We cannot talk about toursim in lezha without including Shengjin, with the beach, the port and the lagoon; in other words, the relationship of Lezha with the sea. Few people know Shengjin as a port. He is mainly known for its beautiful beach surrounded by pine forests and

protected by the mountain who stands as a crown. Situated in the crossroads of the main roads, the Shengjin beach manages to accept 100 000 vacationers per day on the high season. The beach combines with the active life during the peak season with some of the best restaurants, bars, clubs and live music spaces, making it one of the most important resources for tourism in the eastern Adriatic.



These two lagoons lie in between the city of Lezha and the Adriatic Sea in both sides of the Drin river estuary. Althought they are always mentioned together because of their importance, they are two separate entities and different importance. If in Kune, you can go for the wonderful beach, in Vain, you can go for the tranquility of the forest or hunting. The lagoons host some of the best restaurants in the region.

# ST. EUPHEMIA CHURCH

Mentioned since1343, it has a source of water springing out of the rock channelled inside the church as it is seen as purifying water from the Catholic believers. In the rocky wall of the church is sculpted the image of Saint Euphemia. According to the legend, the fountain sprang when two workers were building the church and were very thirsty, saw the image of Saint Euphemia and water sprang out.

THE FRANCISCAN CONGREGATION OF TROSHAN The first footprints can be found in year 1639 with a church and a house for the poor while in 1857, it was fully built. On April 14, 1882, close to this church opened the college, the first school of its kind in Albania where graduated some of the most prominent Albanians, including Father Gjergj Fishta. The

# college operated until 1945 in order to educate novices. The congregation has a stunning space beside the mountains of Troshan, nearby the National Road Lezhë-Vau Dejës.

# **CHURCH OF SAINT BARBARA**

The church of Barbara(Saint Barbulla) is located east of the town of Pllane (Lezhe) and rises in the height of the hill among green fields. The Benedikt-styled construction dates back to the 14th century. The church is lighted by 7 windows in the form of arches and one of them is circular. Naos is covered with a wooden ceiling, which continues without disruptions even in the part of Malifi. The Church of Saint Ven-

of Naos and eastern face of Narteks. The picture in Naos is preserved on the right side of the western entrance; it has a width of 1.8m and a height of 1.95m starting from 1.45m from the floor. The scene depicts Saint Jacob and Saint Veneranda. A unique detail is the display of the hand of the Almighty God which represents the intervention of God in the arch of history in order to help Saint George to kill the dragon.

### LEZHA CASTLE

The western edge of Lezha is the 186 m tall hill on which the castle sits. It does not only dominate the sea coast but it also closes almost all the roads that lead inside the city. Thanks to its favorable geographic position, this hill has been inhabited since the middle of the first millennium before Christ. The footprints of the 5th century walls, the fortifying walls and the Akropolis of the ancient Lissus are marvelous even today. In the 9th century, the medieval castle of Lezha was built on top of these historic ruins. This gave Lezha the role of an urban center. Ana Komnenacalled the castle of Elisson a "castle built on air, the right eye of Durres." From the castle, you can see not only the beautiful and relaxing panorama but also the different phases of history reflected in the layers of the wall and a vast green



### **TALE BEACH**

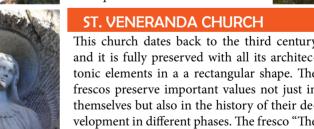
Located 7 km away from the road SH1-E762, this is the beach that people whisper about because it is a completeundiscovered destination. The purity of water and sand, the vast public spaces and the favorable prices are the reasons why vacationers increasingly choose this beach. Summer weekends gather the

highest number of people, up to 20,000 people per day. Tale Beach has

a coastal line of 3 km and a sand width that varies between 100 to 150 m. The people who visit the place say that Tale is the cleanest beach in Albania and that it is a perfect and quite destination for those who go there with their families.

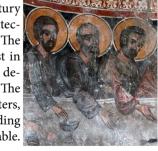
# **RANA E HEDHUN**

About 3-4 km away from Shengjin, a rare geo-monument, The Tossed Sand is a beach that has yet to be exploited. There, it looks like the sand is attacking the mountain, because the slope is filled with fine sand, which gives it its name. It can be reached by car. On the way, there are several pictoresque beaches.



# and it is fully preserved with all its architec-

tonic elements in a a rectangular shape. The frescos preserve important values not just in themselves but also in the history of their development in different phases. The fresco "The Last Supper", painted by Dalmatian masters, paints Jesus alongside his disciples including Judas, but there are only 6 glasses on the table.



# THE CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF ANNUNCIATION

It is said that the establishment of this church and the Franciscan monastery nearby dates back to 1219-1220 when Francis of Azissi came back from the Holy Land. The legend says that Saint Francis took a pine branch where he stopped to spend the night (in the hill in front of the city of Lezha) and drew the foundations of a church. The construction was finished by a priest from Lezha called Dom Lleshi; that is why the church is named "The Church of Dom Lleshi." In the arch on the main door, it is written in Latin "... this temple of the Franciscan brothers was built in the year of the Lord, 1240." The attack that the Turkish army of Mehmet II in 1478 heavily damaged the church and the monastery but they were soon rebuilt with the expenses of the Turkish commander, Ibrahim pasha. In year 1591, the church was still functioning while the friars had been transferred to a hostel in the city. The church was completed in 1892 when the belfry was built. In the end of World War I, the austrian army, who had used this place as a medical center, burned it down and it was rebuilt only in 1930; even in 1930, it remained without a roof. Today, the monastery of Saint Francis and the Church of Lady Nunciata are fully restored, preserving the ancient walls which attest to its history.



