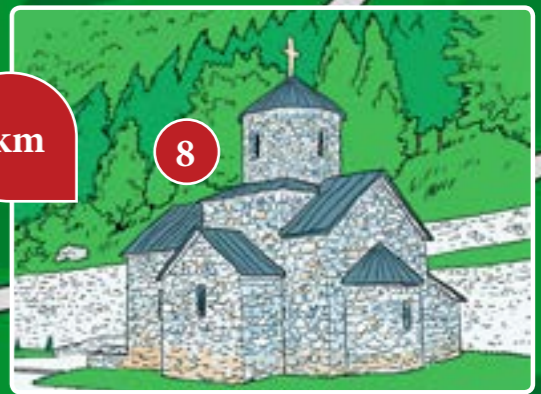




### Berane - Cultural Route

1. The Main Street
2. The Old town
3. Museum of the Polimlje Region
4. Gavro Vuković's house
5. Đurđevi Stupovi Monastery
6. The Monument to Liberty in Jasikovac
7. Šudikova Monastery
8. Kaludra Monastery
9. The Mosque in Petnjica
10. The Region of Petnjica



## The Main Street



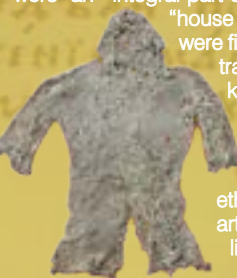
The best way to explore the town is to take an evening walk along the famous promenade, like any true resident of Berane. The spacious and unusually wide main street was, and still is today, the centre of all events. It was designed by the Turkish architect Rizvan-bey. Having just graduated from the University of Sorbonne, he modelled the promenade on Parisian boulevards. This street was the place where the first pharmacy was opened, the first petrol station, as well as the first hotels and inns. The main street included the best bakeries and grill houses, a few cafés and a number of craft shops. Nowadays, the main street is a well-known place for enjoying traditional specialities: burek, grilled trout, sweet kačamak (cornmeal mash), and the hospitality of the people of Berane.

## The Old town

A long time ago, the beyluk, the main town square and market, was located on a wide plateau near the main street. It was the place where merchants used to sell different types of cereals, milk, fruits and vegetables, and in nearby shops they displayed various manufactured goods. Just across the street, inside



the inns, merchants would sit and make business deals. In 1883, on the west side of the beyluk, a waqf (endowment) house was built. It was a blend of traditional and Middle-Eastern architecture, with five wooden pillars and two semicircular wooden arches on the ground plan. The two famous city fountains were an integral part of the waqf house, which led to it being known as the "house beside the drinking fountains". The drinking fountains were filled from water from the monastery's spring which was transferred through beech pipes. It was the first two-kilometre-long town water supply system.



## Museum of the Polimlje Region

Over 9,000 exhibits from the archaeological, ethnographic, numismatic, heraldic, natural history and art collections of the museum will reveal what life was like in Polimlje from prehistory to the present day. Tools

made from antlers, a necklace made from wolf fangs, amber ornaments and a unique sleeveless coat of mail from the time of the Crusades are only part of the rich archaeological collection, which follows the development of this region since the Mesolithic Era. Costumes, jewellery and items for everyday use are the core of the ethnographic collection that illustrates what the inhabitants of this area looked like and how they lived.

## Gavro Vuković's house

Duke Gavro Vukovic (Lijeva Rijeka, b.1852, d. Berane, 1928) was the long-time Minister of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro and the founder of Montenegrin modern diplomacy. He was the son of the famous Montenegrin official Milijan Vukov Vešović and the first trained lawyer in Montenegro. He successfully led Montenegrin diplomacy during difficult negotiations on determining the borders of the Ottoman Empire. Gavro Vuković left a legacy of thousands of pages of his "Memoirs" which are a showcase of Montenegrin foreign policy from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. On the ground floor of the Gavro Vuković Memorial House there is a study with a library which houses his personal belongings and numerous manuscripts.



## Đurđevi Stupovi Monastery



Đurđevi Stupovi Monastery is one of the most important and oldest monasteries in Polimlje. It was built in 1213 as an endowment of Prince Stefan Prvoslav and in this monastery, St. Sava established the Episcopacy of Budimlje. Despite the fact it was burned down and destroyed five times, the monastery was able to remain the centre of the spiritual and political life of the Orthodox population during Ottoman rule. The frescoes in the monastery are in bad

condition because most of the original frescoes from the 14<sup>th</sup> century suffered during frequent attacks on the monastery. It is easy to detect the workmanship of master craftsmen from Dečani. The architecture of the single-nave church dedicated to St. George the Great-Martyr is the same as the architecture that was developing on the coast during the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries.

## The Monument to

### Liberty in Jasikovac

The most beautiful view of the town is from Jasikovac Hill, a favourite picnic spot for the inhabitants of Berane. It is located just one kilometre from the town centre. It was the place where the Ottomans built their military fortification after the battle in Rudeš in 1862. From that point they controlled the local population. Nowadays, instead of a military fortification, there is a monument dedicated to the victims of the struggles for liberation. This unusual eighteen-metre-tall monument is surrounded by 40 granite blocks where the history of the Polimlje region is written in 10,000 letters.



### Šudikova Monastery

The idyllic landscape of the Tifran Gorge hides one of the most important monasteries in this part of Polimlje. For centuries, Šudikova Monastery was an important spiritual and cultural centre with a well-known scribes' school and fresco-painting school. The famous painter and priest Strahinja of

Budimlje attended this school. Ottoman invaders razed the monastery in 1738, and rebuilding work began in 2005. Near the monastery there is a spring called the Sacred Spring which appears and disappears underground several times a day. Legend says that this healing water healed the blind King Stefan of Dečani. Not far from the monastery in the Tifran Gorge, there is a monument dedicated to King Aleksandar Karađorđević that was built in 1929.

### Kaludra Monastery

About nine kilometres from Berane, in the village of Kaludra, is the Monastery of St. Luke, surrounded by dense forests and high mountains. It was built in the 14<sup>th</sup> century during the rule of the Nemanjić dynasty. It is believed that the famous painter, Priest Strahinja from Budimlje, painted all of the frescoes in



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### Hotels

**Hotel "IL SOLE" \*\*\*\***  
Tel: +382 51 231270 / Fax: +382 51 231 320  
E-mail: hotelisole@t-com.me  
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**Bed and Breakfast Vidikovac \*\*\***  
Dušana Vujoševića 1  
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E-mail: divoprex@t-com.me

**Hotel Pešić**  
Jelovica b.b  
Tel: +382 (0) 69 042 522  
+382 (0) 67 535 753

### National Cuisine Restaurants

**Etna Restaurant** - Polimska 71  
Tel: +382 (0) 51 233 776

**Ambiente Restaurant** - Mojsije Zečevića bb  
Tel: +382 (0) 68 527 056  
E-mail: ambiente.berane@gmail.com

**Dva Jelena Restaurant** - Svetosavska bb  
Tel: +382 (0) 67 853 693  
www.bonvivan.me

### Sweet kačamak

Kaçamak is a traditional dish made of wheat and corn flour, typical of many mountain regions. Sweet kačamak is a delicacy that can be found only in Berane! So do not miss the opportunity to try this speciality of cream and ice cream which you can find in many cake shops in Berane.



### How to Get There – Transport

**Air:** the closest airport is in Podgorica (150 km)

**Rail:** Bijelo Polje Railway Station (35 km), www.zcg-prevoz.me

**Bus:** well connected by bus routes from all the towns in the region  
Berane Bus Station +382 (0) 51 234 828

**Car:** accessible by major roads from Podgorica (144 km), Bijelo Polje (35 km), Belgrade (350 km), Biogradska Gora National Park (70 km), Prokletije National Park (50 km)

## Welcome!

You are in Berane, a town on the River Lim, surrounded by high mountain slopes, with fabulous glacial lakes. And while you are enjoying the fresh air and idyllic mountain scenery, do not forget that you are also in the cultural centre of the Polimlje region, inhabited since prehistoric times.

The cultural route of Berane takes you to the most interesting places in the town, where you will discover how people used to live at the beyluk, how the monastery managed to survive, having been razed and rebuilt five times, why you need to make a few laps along the Berane Promenade, what a suit of mail from the time of the Crusades looks like, and where a treasure cave is hidden. You will be able to see the only three-storey mosque in Montenegro and read the history of the Polimlje region written on 40 granite slabs.

### STEP INTO THE HISTORY OF BERANE



More information about the cultural route and assistance in organizing tours are available at:  
Berane Tourist Organization

Opening hours:  
Monday to Friday from 08:00 to 16:00

Address: Mojsija Zečevića 8

Tel/Fax: + 382 (0) 51 236 664  
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Web: www.berane.travel



Although there is no marked bicycle path, the entire route can be visited on mountain bike.

## The Founding of the City

The foundations of the town of Berane were laid by Mehmed-bey Bahtijarević-Jajčanin, the military chief and city sub-governor. After the Battle of Rudeš in 1862, the Ottoman army erected a fortification at Jasikovac, and then a wooden bridge over the River Lim, and barracks and stables on the left bank of the river, on the site of the present-day hospital. Mehmed-bey Jajčanin himself influenced the planning and development of the town, assigning the road layout and street widths. When he died in 1896, for the first time, residents of both religions were present at his funeral – to give their last farewell.

## The Promenade

People say that Berane's promenade is old as the city itself. An unusually broad main street, as if made for walking, with walkers completing a few laps, to "see and be seen" and share all essential and non-essential news, groomed for the occasion. Traditionally, the middle of the street is the part for older, "more serious" people, with the young people of Berane on the right side, and on the left side, young people from the surrounding villages. The promenade has always been an important part of town life, and this was also true in the period when the main street was open to traffic, with one lane for traffic and two for pedestrians. Between 5 pm and 10 pm it was closed to traffic and that was when it became the town promenade. The promenade, like the city itself, has changed over time. Now, between 6 pm and 9 pm it is occupied by older people and parents with children, and from 9 pm young people gather there and walk along the promenade.



## Ivangrad

After World War II, Berane changed its name to Ivangrad in honour of the Montenegrin national hero, Ivan Milutinović. The prominent communist and revolutionist, Ivan Milutinović, took part in organizing partisan detachments across the country. 43 years later, it was decided by referendum to return the town to its old name of Berane.



the monastery. It was neglected and destroyed during Ottoman rule in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. In 2001, after three centuries, the monastery was rebuilt and painted. Near the monastery and almost completely inaccessible are anchorites' cells built into caves, in which, during the Middle Ages, monks lived and prepared themselves for an ascetic life. Even today, it is possible to see signs of their habitation in seats carved out of the rock.

## The Mosque in Petnjica

The only three-storey mosque in the region is located in Petnjica. About twenty kilometers from Berane, you'll find one of the largest mosques in the Balkans, unique in its architecture, made of wood, with hand-carved pillars. It was built as a small village mosque, but was repeatedly expanded and updated with the help of contributions from the local townspeople. With its present size of 550m<sup>2</sup> it can accommodate up to 1,200 worshippers. Legend says that the stone for its construction was taken from the medieval fortress at Bihor.



## The Region of Petnjica

The town of Petnjica is located in the valley of the River Popča, 700 metres above sea level, at the centre of the Gornji Bihor area. The region of Petnjica is famous for its apples and spring water, but most of all for its rich history. This area has been inhabited since the Bronze Age and at the archaeological site of Torine the remains of one of the most important Eneolithic cultures in Montenegro are preserved. A unique female figurine, 5000 years old, was found on this site. Gradina Hill holds the remains of the medieval city of Bihor, which dominated this part of Polimlje during the Middle Ages and Ottoman rule. There are many legends connected to this region, the most interesting one of which is to do with Bratvir: a legend about a waterfall of extraordinary beauty behind which, they say, a cave full of treasure is hidden.

