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milosk50/Shutterstock.com

Few places in Europe have remained off the beaten path as much as the Kosovar first city; fewer yet have been at the heart of a political dispute as agonising in recent history. Pristina, the capital of Kosovo, one of the world's youngest states, boasts a youthful populace to match, and exudes a lust for life that's virtually tangible. Still rough around the edges and with no tourist information offices in sight, Pristina remains uncharted territory, a state of affairs foreseen to change as the city attracts a growing number of visitors.

NOTE: This Guide has been limited to 20 points of interest per section. For the full guide, please visit <u>ArrivalGuides.com</u>

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THE CITY



BalkansCat/Shutterstock.com

Things are happening fast in Pristina, capital of Kosovo, one of the world's youngest states, and although leisure tourism still seems to not have much affected this part of Europe, the situation is predicted to soon change, with no longer just expat employees of the EU or UN walking the city streets.

Kosovar cultural scene is now in transition from budding to full bloom, with art, music and sporting events held frequently, and exhibitions for visual arts showcasing works by international talents (most notably, the National Gallery of Kosovo's "Muslim Mulliqi" and "Gjon Mili"). Cultural outings are easily broken up with frequent trips to the cafes – coffee is a serious affair in Kosovo, some maintaining that it is here that the world's best macchiato is to be had – and at rock-bottom prices.

DO & SEE



qiv/Wikimedia Commons (image cropped)

Although Pristina isn't as conventionally attractive as some other European capitals, there are a few things to keep visitors occupied for the duration of a short stay. Some attractions not to be missed are the National Library building, whose facade has sparked heated debate and varying interpretations, the Ethnographic Museum, and the city's curious monuments, from "Newborn" spelled out in block letters, inaugurated as symbol of the newly emerged state, to Bill Clinton doing a friendly wave from a pedestal on his namesake boulevard.

Ethnographic Museum



There is no better place to familiarise yourself with Kosovar traditional culture than taking a guided tour of the Ottoman buildings

containing the Emin Gjiku Ethnographic Museum. Musical instruments, pieces of clothing and accessories, along with other artefacts, are on display in the museum's stylised interior.

Photo: Bujar Imer Gashi/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped) Address: Iliaz Agushi, Pristina Opening hours: Tue-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 10am-3pm Email: muzeuetnologjik1@gmail.com

Destination: Pristina Publishing date: 2021-05-06

Pristina National Library



The city's most staggering discovery is the brutalist National Library building, a structure so bizarre and seemingly out of place

that many are left unsure as to what to make of it. It still is a perfectly functional library, so do drop in to get a good look at what's inside – you might just chance upon an English-language exhibition.

Photo: Andrii Lutsyk/Shutterstock.com Address: Agim Ramadani, Pristina Opening hours: Mon-Fri 7am-8pm, Sat 7am-2pm Phone: +381 38 212 416 Internet: www.biblioteka-ks.org Email: biblioteka@biblioteka-ks.org

Germia Park



The coveted summertime escape of Germia Park lies just outside Pristina, and covers an impressive 62 square kilometres. Apart from the many

hiking trails, its main attraction is the huge open-air swimming pool thoroughly enjoyed by locals. The Villa Germia restaurant on its grounds also has a great reputation.

Photo: Bdx/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped) Address: Dr. Shpëtim Robaj, Pristina

Bill Clinton Statue



The Bill Clinton statue was unveiled by the man himself nearly a decade ago, and has since then remained one of the city's oddball attractions, given

especially the idiosyncratic nature of its

Communist grey-building backdrop. A kitsch replica of the Statue of Liberty also graced the roof of the now defunct Victory Hotel until rather recently.

Photo: Quinn Dombrowski/Flickr(image cropped) Address: Bill Clinton Boulevard, Pristina More Info: Corner of Robert Doll Street

Imperial Mosque



The Imperial Mosque (or Sultan Mehmet Fatih Mosque, named after the man who ordered its erection in the mid-15th century) is Pristina's most

notable. It still stands today despite the damage done during WWII, and boasts some beautiful indoor art and decoration.

Photo: Attila JANDI/Shutterstock.com Address: Ilir Konushevci, Prisitna

Newborn Monument



Inaugurated on 17 February 2008, the day when Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia, the monument that spells "newborn"

embodies the state's "birth" and very real struggle for recognition, still ongoing as of today. Although the monument is well past its glory days, it still holds symbolic importance.

Photo: khrawlings/Wikimedia commons(image cropped) Address: Luan Haradinaj, Pristina

Kosovo National Gallery



The National Gallery of Kosovo showcases pieces of modern art produced by Kosovar/Albanian artists throughout the 20th century till the

present day. Exhibitions are held regularly, one of the most notable being the competition for the Muslim Mulliqi Prize.

Photo: Bangkoker/Shutterstock.com Address: Agim Ramadani 60, Pristina Opening hours: Tue-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat-Sun 10am-5pm Internet: www.galeriakombetare.com Email: info@galeriakombetare.com

Marble Cave



A 20-minute drive south of Pristina lies the natural limestone cave known as the Marble Cave, once accidentally chanced upon by a local resident.

Despite the research project now being financed by the EU, the cave remains largely unexplored. The entry fee is very moderate and includes a guided tour.

Photo: Kagai19927/Shutterstock.com Address: Gadime e Poshtme

Gracanica Monastery



This functioning monastery isn't much of a developed tourist attraction, but visitors are welcomed by an English-speaking guard

and ushered inside the early 14th century Serbian Orthodox monastery (built in place of an even more ancient 6th century basilica). There is a small gift shop selling ecclesiastic

paraphernalia and souvenirs.

Photo: milosk50/Shutterstock.com Address: Gračanica, Kosovo

Ulpiana Archaeological Site



Mentioned in ancient sources as early as the 2nd century AD, the archaeological site of Ulpiana contains remnants of a Roman

settlement, all clearly marked and accompanied by information boards. It was a relatively important city, whose territory covered an impressive 120 hectares, one that to-date remains largely under the radar.

Photo: Pargovski Jove/Shutterstock.com Address: Lipljan, Kosovo

DINING



Elena M. Tarasova/Shutterstock.com

Political and cultural ties to Albania manifest themselves in Kosovar cuisine, although local specialities do vary by region. Some of the staples to be found at nearly any local eatery are grilled meat sausages (qebapa or salsiccia), lamb chops (tavë, or tavë kosi - baked with yogurt), stuffed peppers, cabbage rolls, and a whole variety of pies, such as burek or Albanian Flija. There is no shortage of quality restaurants in modern-day Pristina, including those

representing world cuisines.

Tiffany



Although most produce used to cook Tiffany's traditional fare is, indeed, organic, that isn't to say dining here is exactly a healthy affair: expect oil

and lard in generous amounts pumped into the restaurant's specials, with meat taking centre stage over vegetables. It's all part of the authentic experience that draws in both locals and visitors.

Photo: Fanfo/Shutterstock.com Address: Fehmi Agani, Pristina Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-10.30pm, Sun 6pm-10.30pm Phone: +381 38 244 040 More Info: Next to the stadium

Country House



Set in a village a few kilometres north of Pristina, Country House is a restaurant worth taking the trip out of town for. Meals are

prepared from scratch, with tava (meat or vegetables roasted with creamy yogurt sauce) and flija (a layered crepe pie) being the doubtless highlights. Seating available outdoors, with views over the idyllic countryside.

Photo: Fitore Syla/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped) Address: Bernica E Eperme, Pristina Opening hours: Mon 1pm-11pm, Tue-Sun 10am-11pm Phone: +377 44 656 054

Liburnia Restaurant



Liburnia goes above and beyond in an effort to forge one of Kosovo's top dining experiences: the atmosphere is very welcoming, staff speak

fluent English, but the biggest highlight is the food - its incredible variety, with traditional local and Albanian dishes taking centre stage, some served sizzling in their skillet.

Photo: Yuliia Mazurkevych/Shutterstock.com Address: Meto Bajraktari, Pristina Opening hours: Mon-Sat 8am-11pm, Sun 12pm-11pm Phone: +377 44 891 000

El Greco



The centrally located Greek restaurant is one of Pristina's best dining venues, with both dishes and ambience forging an authentic atmosphere of a

Greek tavern. Dishes can be paired with drinks and wine straight from Greece. Outdoor seating available in the patio.

Photo: Yulia Grigoryeva/Shutterstock.com Address: Meto Bajraktari 10, Pristina Opening hours: Mon-Sat 7am-12am, Sun 5pm-12am Phone: +381 38 231 550 Email: elgreco.ks@gmail.com

Pishat



The longstanding Balkan restaurant remains well-regarded and popular with locals to-date. Dishes served are sized generously, and the

culinary point of focus is Albanian cuisine (meat dishes prevail, but there are a few vegetarian

options too). Mind that smoking indoors is allowed.

Photo: Katerinina/Shutterstock.com Address: Qamil Hoxha 11, Pristina Opening hours: Mon-Sat 7am-12am, Sun 12pm-12am Phone: +381 38 245 333

Himalayan Gurkha



Here's a little something different on the Pristina dining scene: a restaurant serving pan-Asian dishes, with an emphasis on Indian &

Nepalese. Dishes served include staples like chicken tikka, but also relatively rare for this part of the world Nepalese momo dumplings.

Photo: Tepikina Nastya/Shutterstock.com Address: Uck 17, Pristina Opening hours: Mon-Sun 11am-10pm Phone: +377 44 402 265 Internet: www.lapsi360.com/Indianfoodpristina/index.html Email: himalayangorkha@gmail.com

Home Restaurant & Bar



All but a few will feel at home here, at this longstanding institution listing dishes from all corners of the world on its eclectic menu. Greek,

Italian, even Chinese - let alone Kosovar and Albanian specialities - these cuisines are all represented here, and both locals and expats keep the business running.

Photo: Syda Productions/Shutterstock.com Address: Migjeni, Pristina Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8am-11.30pm, Sat-Sun 11am-11.30pm Phone: +377 44 336 336

Osteria Basilico



Basilico serves reliable Italian, dish classics mixing in with specialities of the house. Prices are steeper than elsewhere in town, but you get what

you pay for, and the reception and quality are both worth a bit of a splurge.

Photo: Elena Yakusheva/Shutterstock.com Address: Fehmi Agani, Pristina Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10am-11pm Phone: +377 44 276 276

De Rada Brasserie



This brasserie's allure is one hard to pull yourself away from, and that, coupled with good value food (Italian-leaning) and wines, makes it hard to

leave soon. The place is known to be frequented by the local creme de la creme, so prepare to brush shoulders with Kosovar elites.

Photo: Kichigin/Shutterstock.com Address: UCK Street, Pristina Opening hours: Mon-Sat 7am-12am Phone: +381 38 222 622

CAFES



Rido/Shutterstock.com

Some say Europe's best macchiatos are brewed in Pristina. Luckily, there are plenty of places to go and challenge or confirm the assertion: coffee houses and cafes are aplenty, leaving visitors with many to choose from. There are several great spots around Fehmi Agani Street, and in the lively southern neighbourhood of Santea.

Soma Book Station



Perhaps the coolest spot in town, Soma Book Station is somewhat of Pristina's hipster headquarters, sitting at the nexus of book cafe,

casual restaurant, and steampunk bar-type establishments. It gets very busy during lunch hours (come by if you have time to spare), and the outdoor garden buzzes with life on summer evenings. Food served is a mix of international specialities: tacos, burgers, pasta and risotto.

Photo: Jacob Lund/Shutterstock.com Address: Fazli Grajqevci 4/A, Pristina Opening hours: Mon-Sat 8am-1am Phone: +381 38 748 818 Email: somabookstation@gmail.com

Dit' e Nat'



Translated as "day and night", Dit' e Nat' doubles as a cool daytime book cafe and hip bar/happening venue come sundown. The menu

is concise yet nifty, and prices more than reasonable. Seating available in- and outdoors. Live jazz plays in the evenings, and the place often hosts movie screenings and similar events.

Photo: mauro_grigollo/Shutterstock.com Address: Fazli Grajqevci, Pristina Opening hours: Mon-Sat 8am-12am, Sun 10am-8pm Phone: +381 38 742 037 Internet: ditenat.com Email: info@ditenat.com

Shpija e vjeter



The cafe is a rather popular meeting place for locals looking for a casual meal or an evening glass of draft beer. It serves authentic local fare at

reasonable prices, which keeps the flow of patrons steady.

Photo: Mila Supinskaya Glashchenko/Shutterstock.com Address: Street Qamil Hoxha, Pristina Opening hours: Mon-Sun 7am-12pm Phone: +377 45 840 084

Miqt Taverna



It's somewhat hard to locate this tavern, but you'll be glad you did: the key is to duck into a small alley underneath the "Anker" sign in Nena

Tereza Square. It serves great value, uncomplicated traditional fare, and is cosy enough to easily help while away a few hours.

Photo: Rawpixel.com/Shutterstock.com Address: Nena Tereza Square, Pristina Opening hours: Mon-Sun 8am-12am

Half & Half



Trendy Half & Half spills out onto the street when weather permits, offering even more patrons the chance to enjoy views of the central square as they

sip on a drink of choice. The name refers to the establishment being half cafe and half bar, equally alluring for breakfast and evening drinks.

Photo: Viktoriia Photographer/Shutterstock.com Address: Bulevardi Nënë Tereza, Pristina Opening hours: Mon-Sun 7.30am-12am

Prince Coffee House



The variety of coffees served at Prince Coffee House is truly astounding, and taking your pick will certainly be a hold-up, so come ready.

There is another branch now at Albi Mall; both serve excellent brews, cakes, and snacks.

Photo: Darasp Kran/Shutterstock.com Address: Sheshi Zahir Pajaziti Opening hours: Daily 7am-11pm

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



santypan/Shutterstock.com

The Muslim-majority Kosovo is overwhelmingly secular when it comes to nightlife, and with Europe's youngest populace, the Kosovar capital is coming of age together with its residents, sprouting an increasing amount of hip hangout spots, microbreweries and bars from one day to the next. The first craft brewery that took root in Pristina is Sabaja (its brews are served at bars across town and, sicne recently, internationally), now followed by Birra Prishtina, Grembeer (brewing with clear Gremnik Mountain water), and others. Areas to head for evening drinks include the Fehmi Agani Street, Pejton & Santea neighbourhoods.

Santea Neighbourhood



After work and on weekends, locals swarm to this neighbourhood, hidden in plain sight behind a gate leading here from Bill Clinton

Boulevard. It teems with cafes and bars, patrons slowly relocating from the former to the latter as the night progresses. Music fills the air, and the vibe is jovial.

Photo: DisobeyArt/Shutterstock.com Address: Santea, Pristina

Rooftop 13



Although the Grand Hotel itself has seen much better days, its top floor is currently occupied by one of the town's swankiest nightlife

venues: Rooftop 13. DJs play sets most nights, and guests enjoy a panoramic view of Pristina. Dress smart - most who come here, do.

Photo: Just Go Out There/Shutterstock.com Address: Sheshi Zahir Pajaziti, Pristina Phone: +377 45 111 200 Email: hoxhaedison@gmail.com

Hamam Jazz Bar



The snazzy jazz bar is an important live music venue for, reportedly, all of the Balkans, let alone just Pristina. Its award-winning interior

continues to see an undwindling flow of patrons, and jazz, along with other music genres, still sound off the stage just like they did nearly a decade ago.

Photo: AlessandroBiascioli/Shutterstock.com Address: Hajdar Dushi, Pristina Opening hours: Mon-Sat 8pm-2am Phone: +377 44 222 289 Email: hamampr@gmail.com

Priview Bar



Another pleasant evening meeting point is the Priview Bar, just outside of central Pristina. There is live music here, too, and entertainment

available in the form of billiards. Food is served alongside drinks, and the bar doubles as a cafe

during daytime.

Photo: Syda Productions/Shutterstock.com Address: Ferid Curri, Pristina More Info: Film City, Minimax

Zone Club



Zone is an expansive affair: it gathers substantial crowds, and might be the city's largest nightlife venue. It alternates between two

different locations during the summer and winter seasons. The party here doesn't stop until early morning hours.

Photo: Alexandru Chiriac/Shutterstock.com Address: Industrial Zone, Pristina Opening hours: Fri & Sat 11pm-6am Phone: +377 45 222 284 Email: info@zoneclubpr.com

SHOPPING



Olesia Bilkei/Shutterstock.com

Local handicrafts make for some of the best souvenirs to bring back from Pristina. These range from jewellery produced by local silver smiths to wood carvings, leather goods, embroidery, traditional Albanian pieces of clothing, woven rugs, and even musical instruments. Admiration for the Clintons has manifested itself here not only via statues and street names, but also a couple of clothing stores named after Hillary Clinton, with items on sale carefully selected to replicate Clinton's sense of style. The old bazaar retains little of its former glory, but is an exciting cultural experience not to be missed.

Bazaar



The most obvious choice for an authentic shopping trip is the old Bazaar, packed with lone vendors and stalls selling everything from feta

cheese by the bucket to car parts and Kosovar memorabilia. It's worth poking around even if you aren't planning to buy.

Photo: NataliaMilko/Shutterstock.com Address: Rruga Ilir Konusheci, Pristina

Yllka Brada Atelier



Atelier owner and fashion designer Yllka Brada brought home knowledge gained in France to dress the fellow Kosovar, and opened an atelier of her

own in downtown Pristina. She's worked with media and fashion labels, and the final bill is guaranteed to be much lower than elsewhere in western Europe for the quality.

Photo: anythings/Shutterstock.com Address: Sheshi Zahir Pajaziti 1, Pristina Phone: +377 45 410 047 More Info: Also located at Hyrja 5/17.

Grand Store



One of Pristina's two large modern shopping centres, Grand Store is a collection of regional and international brand name shops selling clothing,

accessories, and a further variety of relatively standard items. There is a food court with multiple restaurants and cafes.

Photo: nd3000/Shutterstock.com Address: M2, Pristina Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8am-11pm, Sat-Sun 10am-10pm Phone: +381 38 602 166

Delvina



For traditional pieces and souvenirs, try Delvina, set at the corner of Bill Clinton Boulevard and Robert Doll Street. There is plenty to browse

through, including Albanian folk dress and accessories, bags, belts, a few household items, pottery, and more. Many of the items come from Kosovo's own city of Prizren.

Photo: Botond Horvath/Shutterstock.com Address: Bill Clinton Boulevard, Pristina Phone: +377 45 507 701

Dodo Silver



Silver smithery is a craft with roots in Pristina, and Dodo Silver holds its spot among the well-regarded boutiques of the Kosovar capital. Artisan pieces of

intricate silver jewellery are on sale here, from elaborate necklaces and pendants to earrings and bracelets, all at reasonable prices and with gift packaging available.

Destination: Pristina Publishing date: 2021-05-06

Photo: Wood Water Wall/Shutterstock.com Address: Garibaldi 33, Pristina Opening hours: Mon-Fri 10am-8pm Phone: +383 44 198 789 Email: lekeberisha@hotmail.com

Dukagjini Bookstore



This beloved local bookstore stocks a wide selection of literature, including English-language fiction, travel guides, books on

Kosovo's history and culture, and more. It's a good place to shop for paraphernalia such as post cards, too.

Photo: Dean Drobot/Shutterstock.com Address: Nena Tereza 87, Pristina Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8am-6pm Phone: +381 38 248 143 Internet: www.dukagjinigroup.com Email: dukagjinibookshop@gmail.com

Art Gallery Llalloshi



With all-original artwork, the Llalloshi Gallery is a cultural attraction as much as a place to shop for unique pieces such as paintings and sculpture.

The entire Llalloshi family is actively involved in the art world, and there are a dress and a jewellery shop just around the corner that both belong to the prolific family.

Photo: Rawpixel.com/Shutterstock.com Address: Nazim Gafurri 18, Pristina Phone: +377 44 124 441 Email: artgallery-llalloshi@hotmail.com

Albi Shopping Mall



Perhaps, the most popular shopping and entertainment complex in town is Pristina's Albi Shopping Complex, which houses a wide variety of

regional and internationally known brand stores. There is a children's playground, along with a cinema, large supermarket, and extensive food court. Parking is free of charge.

Photo: Syda Productions/Shutterstock.com Address: M2, Pristina Opening hours: Mon-Sun 10am-10pm Internet: www.albigroup.com Email: info@albicenter.com

TOURIST INFORMATION



Ditty_about_summer/Shutterstock.com

Passport / Visa



Kosovo can be entered visa-free by citizens of the EU and/or Schengen Agreement member states, as well as citizens of the USA, Canada,

Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Africa, and the majority of South American countries. Citizens of some Asian and African countries may need to apply for a visa. Important travel notice: if you are continuing on to Serbia after your stay in Kosovo, make sure your original entry point to Kosovo is through Serbia. This means, entry to Serbia may be refused to travellers transiting through Kosovo who first arrive in Macedonia, Albania, or Montenegro.

Check whether or not visa is required for you at:

Photo: TukTuk Design/Shutterstock.com Internet: www.mfa-ks.net/?page=2,102

Best Time to Visit



Summers can get very hot and winters very cold in Pristina, but temperatures are rarely at their extremes. Even though summers tend to

be on the hot side, July through September remain the height of tourist season. For guaranteed pleasant temperatures appropriate for city exploration, aim for June or late September.

Those looking to continue on to the slopes of Brezovica may find December through March bring the best skiing conditions, while May through September are good for mountain hiking.

Photo: VectorA/Shutterstock.com

Pristina International Airport



The Pristina International Airport offers an increasing number of connections to various destinations across Europe. As of 2018, there were no public transport connections between the city and the airport, and the only way to reach Pristina was by taxi or private transfer. When getting a cab, make sure to agree on the price before departure, and enquire about the current rates at your time of travel.

Photo: Juan Garces Internet: www.airportpristina.com

Public Transport



There is a well-developed bus network that runs through the entire city. Fares are low, and tickets may be purchased directly on board the

busses.

There are inter-city bus connections within Kosovo and internationally, between Pristina and Belgrade, Novi Pazar (Serbia), Skopje (Macedonia), Tirana (Albania), Podgorica, Ulcinj (Monetengro). Trains run to Kosovo's Peja and Skopje.

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair Internet: www.prishtinabuses.info

Taxi



There are several taxi companies that operate in Pristina. Most use meters, and have a standard starting fare. If using non-official carriers

or non-metered taxis, make sure to agree on a price in advance. Trips within the city limits usually cost no more than a few euros.

Some companies that operate in the city include:

Victory Taxi +381 38 555 333

London Taxi +377 44 300 300

Beki +377 44 111 555

Photo: ArrivalGuides

Post



The PTK postal company runs a relatively reliable service in Kosovo. Still, some mail has been reported not to arrive due to the sporadic changes

to addresses and street names that sometimes occur. To be on the safe side, avoid mailing goods of high value.

There are two types of letters: regular and priority, the latter are more expensive but give the sender access to tracking their mail.

Private carriers like DHL, UPS, and FedEx also operate in Kosovo.

PTK FILATELIA: UÇK p.n, 10000 Pristina Kosovo Tel: +381 38 246 770

Photo: Andy Fuchs

Pharmacy



Barnatore Rruga Gazmend Zajmi 13A, Pristina +381 38 244000 Mon-Sat 8am-9pm Kastrati Pharmacy Enver Maloku, Pristina +386 49 Open 24/7

American Hospital in Kosovo +381 38 221 661 +386 49 513 513 www.ks.spitaliamerikan.com

Photo: Gemma Garner

Telephone



Although a country code +383 was finally assigned to Kosovo in 2016, you will find many phone numbers still listed with an international phone

code of Monaco (+377), Slovenia (+386) or Serbia (+381). There is even a phone app (developed by Google) designed specifically to automatically convert pre-entered numbers starting with the above mentioned codes into the new +383.

All old codes are planned to be replaced by the newly assigned one soon, following the lead of Vala operator already supporting it. IPKO may still use the Slovenian code (+386) in some instances, and Serbian +381 is for landlines.

The area code of Pristina is +38.

Photo: Jardson Almeida

Electricity



230 V, 50 Hz Type F two-pin sockets

482 390

Photo: Stirling Tschan

Population 207,062

Currency

1 Euro = 100 cents

Opening hours

Major Muslim holidays, such as Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha, may affect opening hours. Christian holidays are also observed.

Newspapers

Koha Ditore Zeri Kosova Sot Lajm

Emergency numbers

Police: 192 Ambulance: 194 Fire: 193