

# Routes culture





# Cultural Routes

This brochure serves as a comprehensive guide tailored for tourists and visitors with an interest in exploring the rich cultural tapestry of Kavaja and Rogozhina. Crafted with care, it presents five thoughtfully curated itineraries designed to lead you through a captivating blend of cultural and natural landmarks. Embark on a journey that unveils over 15 points of interest, introduces you to local products, and provides insights into the unique environmental facets of Kavaja and Rogozhina.

The key to unlocking this enriching experience lies in a simple action: scanning the QR code provided. This small gesture grants you access to a detailed map, opening the doors to a wealth of information about your chosen destination and the array of captivating points of interest that await your discovery.

## **About Kavaja and Rogozhina**

Kavaja is a city that has an ancient history and has been known since antiquity as an area of artisanal and commercial profile, a character that has been preserved over the centuries. In antiquity, the territory was inhabited by the Illyrian tribe of Taulantes, who played an important role in the history of the Illyrian state, where a series of successful kings of Taulan origin have left their mark with their names, such as Glaukia, Monuni and Mytili.

Meanwhile, the area has a rich tradition in craftsmanship, which dates to prehistory. From the Bronze Age to the ancient Illyrian civilization, decorative and figurative art extended to Illyrian crafts. Painted ceramics testify to the fine artistic taste of Illyrian artisans.

This tradition comes down to our days with the beautiful pottery products of Kavaja artisans. In the past decades, the city had a pottery factory which also exported its products, but now it no longer works and, in the place where it was located, today there is a restaurant of traditional cuisine called "Old Pottery".

The topography of the Rogozhina Municipality encompasses a blend of undulating hills and expansive flatlands that extend towards the shoreline. Its geographical boundaries interconnect with neighboring regions: the Municipality of Kavaja lies to the northern side, while the Municipality of Tirana resides to the northeast. Further encompassing surroundings include the Municipalities of Lushnje and Divjak to the southern direction, the Municipality of Peqin to the east, and the expansive Adriatic Sea that stretches along its western edge.

The town's origins are intertwined with its historical engagement in agro-industrial pursuits. It once housed a cluster of factories dedicated to oil extraction, soap production, cotton processing, and a line focused on food preservation. However, the curtain has long fallen on these industrial endeavors. The municipal economy has since pivoted towards a dual foundation: a robust agricultural sector, enlisting approximately 70% of the region's expanse in farming endeavors, and a burgeoning tourism industry, capitalizing on a scenic coastline that stretches approximately 20 kilometers along the Adriatic Sea.



## ITINERARY I

# Salt Bicycle Route

 Difficulty level 1 of pedaling (1-10): **8-9**

 Distance: **55km**

 Pedaling Duration 3  
With all stops: **8-9h**

 Elevation of the Route  
from sea: **0-180m**

## Designing the path around the “Hills of Kavaja” with bicycles

This path traverses the gentle hills west of the city of Kavaja, starting from the Bastova castle, to the east, then to the north, to pass the village of Luz i madh, Luz i minor, near the village of Vorrozen, oriented to the east in the village of Blerimaj.

During the first part of the route, several lowland villages are visited, with natural landscapes, agricultural land. Next, the path goes to the village of Rrikaj, then near the village of Bukaq, where the cultural monument “Ura e Bukaqi” is visited, to continue to the village of Synej, Rrakul, to head west towards the area of Karpen, where the monument is visited of the “Salt Warehouse” culture.



# Strengths

- Bashtovo Castle, in the village of Vilë Bashtovo
- Warehouse of Crimea, in Karpen
- Bukaq bridge, near Bukaq village
- Construction works of the communist period, such as housing, reclamation works, as well as constructions and fortifications of a military nature.
- Hilly terrain, close distance to major cities
- Mediterranean climate – tourism 12 months
- Nature – forests, sea (iodine, oxygen), lakes, planted hills.
- Not too dirty- Throughout the description of the trail, we can say that the trail is relatively clean.
- Planted lands – The lands near this area, in terms of geographical position and climatic conditions, are rich in crops, mainly fruit trees such as figs, persimmons, pomegranates, tangerines, oranges, medlars, persimmons, vineyards, walnuts, as well as crops others such as olives, alfalfa fields, medicinal plants, etc.
- Food, organic based on local products. Near the area there are farms for the cultivation of snails, stables, a cow farm and a horse farm.





## ITINERARY II

# Path of Lakes

 Difficulty level 4 of the walk (1-10): <b>3-4</b>	 Distance: <b>23km</b>
 Duration of the walk with stops: <b>6-8h</b>	 Elevation of the Route from sea: <b>0-192vm</b>

## Designing the Itinerary II “Path of the Lakes” - on foot

This path crosses the gentle hills west of the city of Kavaja as well as the coast of Spille, the Adriatic Sea. It is mainly an itinerary with a focus on nature.

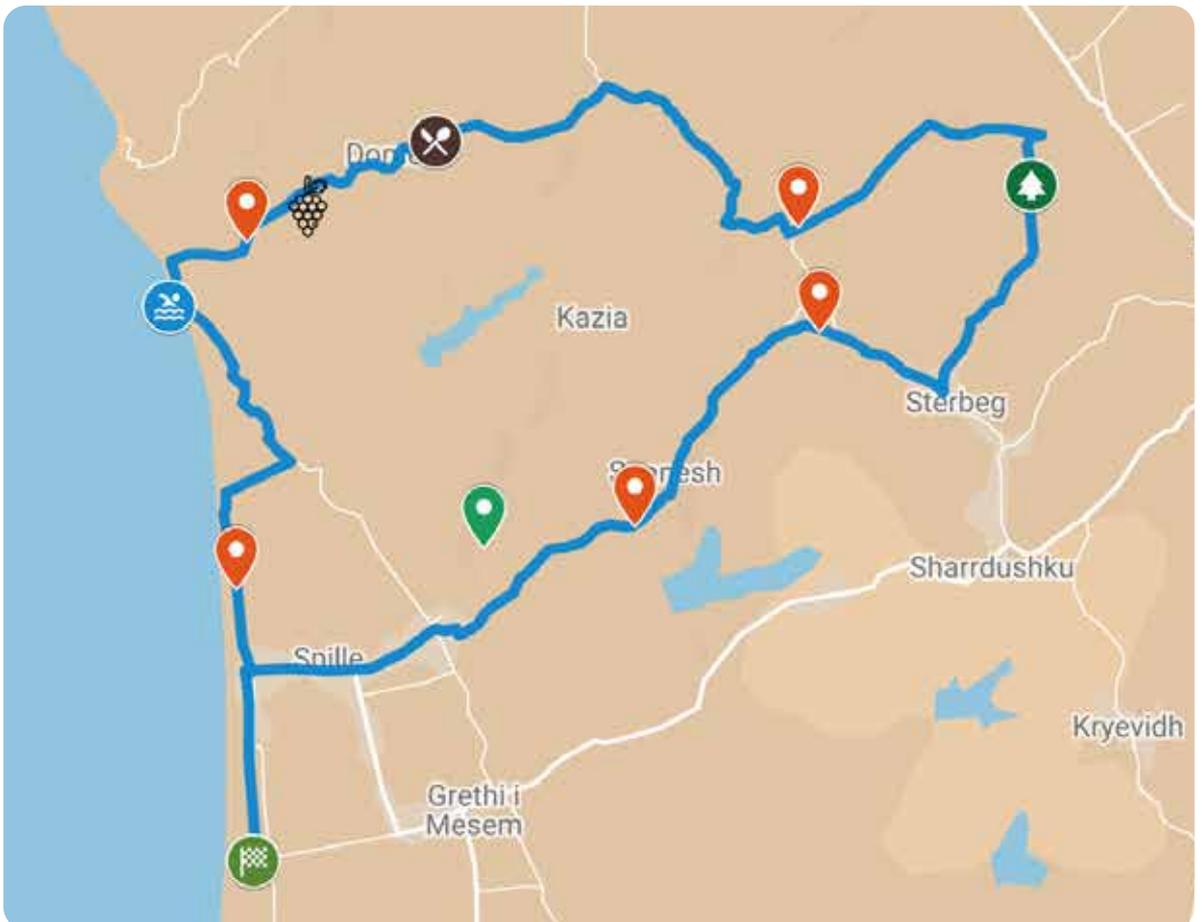
On the basis of the preliminary study and analysis, this path was realized together with the route, as it offers a very intriguing natural landscape, starting from Siplle beach, where there is also the possibility to park the car or other vehicles, to continue further. towards the east climbing gentle hills, with a maximum height of up to 190 m.

Following the route, very close to the village of Spille, there is a natural spring which can be optional to visit.



## Strengths

- Massive pine forest
- Natural resource
- 5 Artificial lakes
- Hilly terrain, close distance to major cities
- Mediterranean climate – tourism 12 months
- Nature – forests, sea (iodine, oxygen, fishing), lakes, planted hills
- Not too dirty- Throughout the description of the trail, we can say that the trail is relatively clean
- Food, organic based on local products
- Restaurants and bars along the waterfront area
- Easily accessible – paved road, public transport, mostly good road infrastructure. Equipped with directional signs.





### ITINERARY III

# Pines' Route

 Difficulty level of pedaling (1-10): **1-2**

 Distance: **22km**

 Walking time with all the stops: **6-8h**

 Elevation of the Route from sea: **0-16m**

## Designing Route III (on foot)

This path crosses the gentle hills west of the city of Kavaja as well as the coast of Spille, the Adriatic Sea. Based on the preliminary study and analysis, this path was realized together with the route, as it offers a very intriguing natural landscape, starting from the field of Vilë Bashtova.

The starting point is from the Castle of Bashtova, where there is also parking, it continues in the north-eastern direction near the villages of Rreth-Greth, Greth i Mesëm in the direction of the village of Spille, to go down to the south along the coast of the beach of Spille, in the massif with Pine.



# Strengths

- Bashtovo Castle, in the village of Vilë Bashtovo
- Construction works of the communist period, such as reclamation works and military fortifications, fragment of a water supply near the village of Greth I Mesem
- Massive Pine Forest- The combination of soft pines along the coastline with the sandy shore, the walk is a very beautiful experience through the dense trees and the aromas of pines, low vegetation, chirping birds, butterflies and sea urchins.
- Planted lands – The lands near this area, (see attached photos) in terms of

geographical position and climatic conditions are rich in crops, mainly fruit trees such as figs, persimmons, pomegranates, tangerines, oranges, medlars, dates, vineyards, walnuts, as well as other crops such as olives, alfalfa fields, medicinal plants, wheat, corn and Mediterranean maquis. The road from the military department to Rreth Greth is a wetland area with a large presence of reed plants.

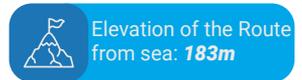
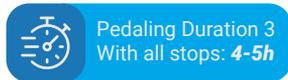
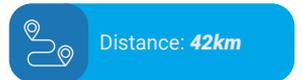
- Symbolism – While crossing the road along the middle village of Greth, we come across Christian symbols, the majority of the community belongs to the Muslim religion.





## ITINERARY IV

# Venetian Route



## Designing the path around the “Hills of Kavaja” - with bicycles

This path crosses the gentle hills west of the city of Kavaja as well as the coast of Spille, the Adriatic Sea.

On the basis of the preliminary study and analysis, this path was realized together with the itinerary, as it offers a very intriguing natural landscape, starting from the field of Vilë Bashtova, small lakes along the passage to the village of Kryevidh, to the west the Adriatic Sea as well as the massif with pines along this coast, intertwining at the edge, to the north and south, with 2 cultural assets such as the ruins of Turra Castle and Bashtova Castle.

The period of communalization is also included, which is still visible today thanks to construction works.



# Strengths

- Bashtovo Castle, in the village of Vilë Bashtovo
- Turra Castle, in Domë Village, Kryevidh
- Construction works of the communist period, such as housing, reclamation works, as well as constructions and fortifications of a military nature.
- Hilly terrain, close distance to major cities
- Mediterranean climate – tourism 12 months
- Nature – forests, sea (iodine, oxygen, fishing), lakes, planted hills.
- Not too dirty- Throughout the description of the trail, we can say that the trail is relatively clean.
- Food, organic based on local products
- Easily accessible – paved road, public transport, mostly good road infrastructure. Equipped with orientation boards.





## ITINERARY V

# Kavajon Route

 Difficulty level 1 of pedaling (1-10): **4**

 Distance: **16km**

 Pedaling Duration 3  
With all stops: **1-2h**

 Elevation of the Route  
from sea: **0-180m**

## Designing the Itinerary V “Kavajon Route” - with bicycles

This path traverses the center of the city of Kavaja, starting from the Ethnographic Museum to the west, then to the east, to reach the city center of Kavaja where are located the Mosque of Kubelie and the Clock Tower.

The itinerary then continues to the northwest to reach "Poçeria e Vjeter", an old pottery factory which has now been turned into a modern restaurant.

From this point, the itinerary continues to the village of "Çetë" where is located the "St. Paraskevi's church". The itinerary combines both urban and rural areas.



## Strengths

- Rich in cultural heritage
- Terrain and geographical position
- Hilly relief, close distance to the main cities
- Mediterranean climate - tourism 12 months
- Nature – forests, sea (iodine, oxygen), lakes, planted hills.
- Throughout the description of the path, we can say that the path is relatively clean.
- Food, organic based on local products.
- Easily accessible - paved road, public transport, mostly good road infrastructure. Equipped with orientation boards.





# Natural Points



## The Forest of Beden

The Beden forest lies west of the village of the same name in the area of Kavaja. It has an area of about 300 ha, consisting of various woods, mostly conifers. There are also a large number of flowers and bushes, which make the forest very attractive for nature and flora enthusiasts.

Characteristic is the greenery that is found throughout the year. As for the fauna, animals such as foxes, jackals, wild rabbits, weasels and several types of birds live there. It is a protected natural area.



## The General's Beach

Gjenerali Beach is the most beautiful and attractive part of the entire Kavaja Riviera, consisting of 30 km of coastline, which appears as soon as you cross the hills of Kryevidhi. It is only 10 km from the national road Durrës-Rrogozhinë. The coastline of the beaches of Kavaja starts from the beach of Golem, to continue with Mali e Robit, Qerret, Karpen, and up to Spille. The less known part of it follows the beach of Qerret. Following this segment are the beaches of Carinë, Kepi i Lagjit, Gjiri i Forsiluk, Guri te Lemuar beach, Spille beach, etc.



## The Spring

At a distance of about 1 km to the east of the center of the village of Spille there is a tourist attraction, a natural water source. The path can be easily described by everyone and offers beautiful and calming views of the valley and the slopes of the hills on which it lies. During the walk, the visitor encounters a large bee farm, buildings from the communist period as well as olive plantations.



## Pine forest

The combination of soft pines along the coastline with the sandy shore is perfect. Walking in the forest is a very beautiful experience, as it gives you a relaxing feeling, through dense trees and the scent of pines, low vegetation, chirping birds, various butterflies and the iodine of the sea. It is recommended to bring anti-mosquito cream/spray.



## Karpen beach

Karpen beach, south of Golem, starts from the spillway of the river Draci and reaches the hills of Karpen, in a length of 1.5 km. It is not green. The surrounding area is salty and has a typical mudflat fauna, with few birds such as white wagtail, the field deer, the white runner, the reed beak, the sea tern, etc. Being 6 km. away from the highway, it is a little frequented, while in recent years some alpine type villas have been built on the hills near the sea.



# Cultural Monuments



## Bashtova Castle

***Bashtova Castle, in the village of Vilë Bashtovë – Cultural Monument K.I***

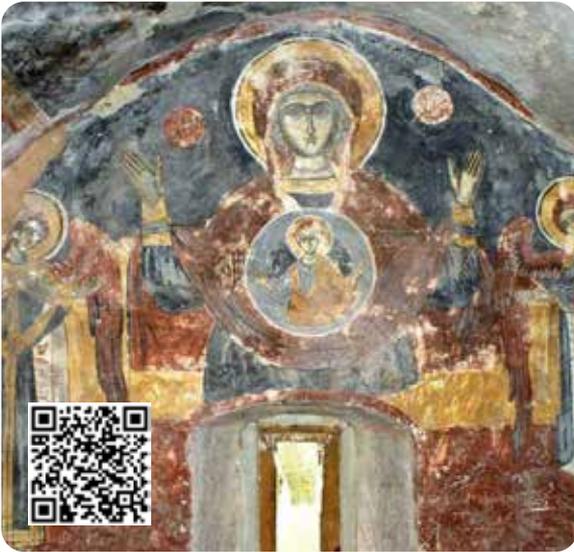
Bashtova Castle is located on a plain, about 400 m north of the river Shkumbin, 3 km from its discharge into the Adriatic Sea, in the south-west of the village of Vilë-Bashtovë and it belongs to the XV century, built by the Venetians. It has received the status of cultural monument of the first category since 1948.



## Ethnographic Museum building

***Kavaje, – (K.I Cultural Monument)***

The Ethnographic Museum in Kavaja is located in the Skuraj district of the city of Kavaja. It is surrounded by other relatively low houses, one, two or three stories. It is easily accessible via the main road "Skuraj" and is surrounded by a low brick wall and steel railings. It was built at the end of the century. XVIII and the beginning of the century. 19th century by the Arkaxhi family and was opened as a museum in 1971.



## St. Paraskevi's Church

### ***Cete village, Kavajë – Cultural Monument K.I***

St. Paraskevi's Church is located on a hill east of Kavaja. The church is located among the crowns of olive trees in the hills of Ceta. This church was declared a cultural monument for its values in 1963. The church consists of a narthex, a nave and an altar.

On the floor of the church, there is a sun figure in the shape of a circle laid with stones.



## Turre Castle

### ***Turre Castle – Cultural Monument K.I***

Positioned in the southern part of the bay of Durrës, on the coast of the Adriatic, there is Cape Lagji, otherwise known as the castle of Turra. It has a very interesting location and history which goes deep into the centuries before Christ.

There are various local and foreign researchers, historians and archaeologists who think that the ancient city of Epidamni, founded by Korkyra settlers, was located in this area.



## Medieval Salt Depot

### ***Medieval Salt Depot, Karpen village –Cultural Monument K.I***

It is positioned in the northwest of the city of Kavaja, near the Adriatic coast, which has given it the opportunity since ancient times for the storage of sea salt. It is the only salt warehouse in Albania of this size that has survived to our days, with indisputable historical and architectural values. Due to the value and importance of the salt warehouse, it was declared a cultural monument of the first category in 1984. It is a building volume with a quadrangular plan, with high walls, preserved up to a height of 5.2m.



# Old Buildings

## Construction works of the communist period

The communist period in Albania extended from 1945 to 1991. Since the area in question is coastal, with plain and hilly relief, the construction activity during this period was mostly in the following areas: agricultural, economic and military /fortifying.

Various traces and constructions belonging to the second half of the century are scattered in the area. XX, the communist period, starting from constructions with an agricultural character, such as the dams of many water catchments built to provide the necessary amount of water so necessary for agriculture, irrigation drainage

channels, reclamation works, hydrobores, water pipes, warehouses and other buildings auxiliary of former cooperatives.

Constructions of a military character such as bunkers of various types and sizes, trenches, tunnels and military wards are found everywhere.

Near the village of Bardhore, the ruins and parts of buildings from the prison of the same name can still be found today. Built during this period where, unfortunately, prisoners with anti-communist convictions were isolated and suffered. Today it is used and visited as a place of historical memory.



# About the Project



[Read More](#)

## Purpose

The main objective of the project is the development of socio-economic of Kavaja and Rogozhina, the valorization and promotion of cultural heritage in the region.

In order to achieve its objective, the project will create new and alternative methods of tourism, in particular cultural tourism.

Four new routes will attract tourist and visitors to come and visit interesting cultural and natural points in Kavaja and Rogozhina. They will foster the development of new economic activities for the local population through their active involvement, especially woman and young

people or their association. More visitors, means more opportunity for them to sell their products and offer their services.

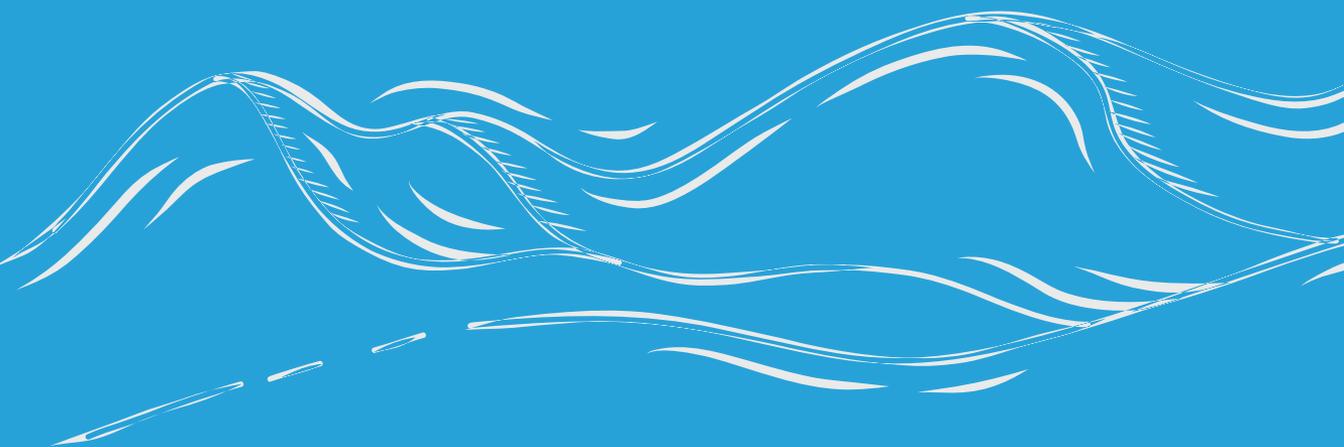
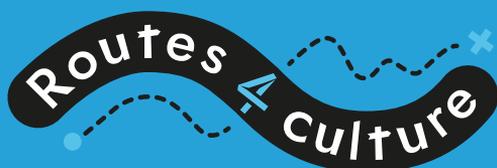
## Festival

An important novelty that the project will bring is the launch of the two-days Fair-Festival. The festival will be organized yearly and will attract visitors and local producers who want to promote their products. The fair festival and especially routes are a very effective methods to promote the cultural heritage of the region and involve different stakeholders in the preservation and promotion of them.

## Routes

The routes identified are:

1. Creative route (cultural tourism + Hiking in the protected area National Park Lagoon of Karavasta +agro tourism + ecotourism.
2. Creative route (Hiking around Turra Castle, cultural tourism, eco-tourism, agro-tourism)
3. Hiking Tour in the area around Spille.
4. Discovery by bicycle of the area around & Kavaja Hills. – Bicycle tour +ecotourism + agri- tourism tour.



The views expressed in this brochure are the sole responsibility of the project and author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union and UNOPS.