

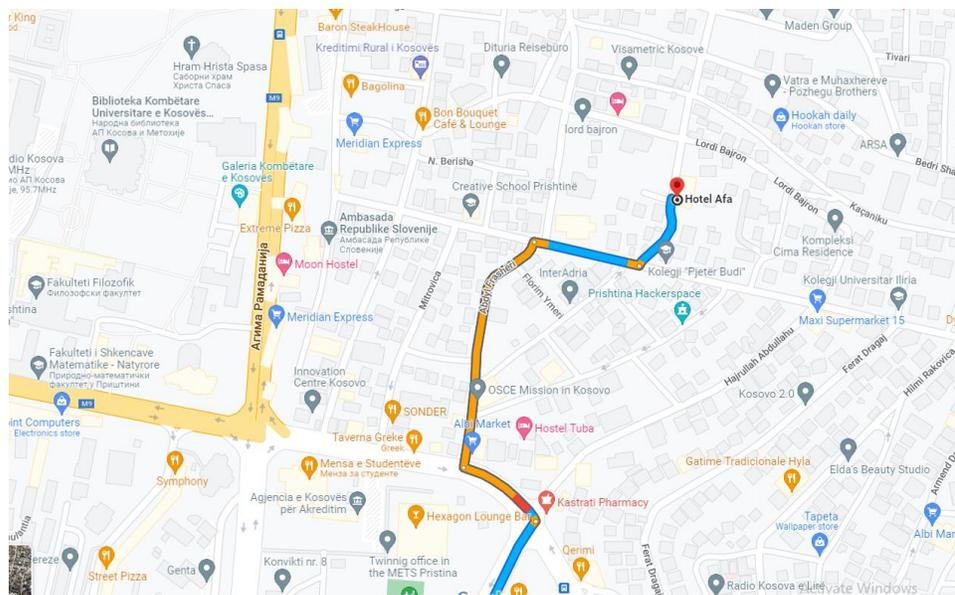
VISIT ITINERARY

October 2, Sunday: Arrival in Pristina – Check-in at **Hotel Afa**

Address: 15 Rruga Ali Kelmendi, Prishtina

Phone: +383 38 225 226

<https://g.page/hotel-afa?share>



Rooms are booked on your names on behalf of Institute of Albanology (by Mirketa)

18:00 Welcome dinner: (Zana will pick you up at the Hotel)

In case of emergency

Emergency telephone numbers of Kosovo

Police: 192.

Ambulance: 194

Fire: 193

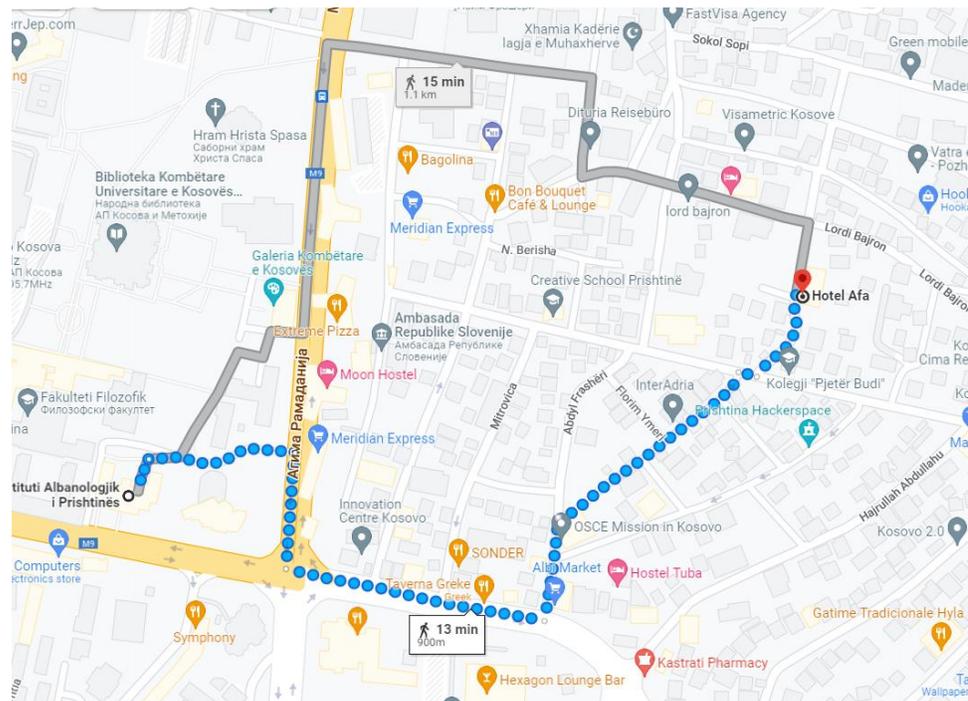
ZANA HOXHA +38344448842

ZANA RAMA +38349499489

October 3, Monday: Venue: Insitute of Albanology in Prishtina

Adress: Eqrem Çabej, Prishtina

10 minute walk from Hotel Afa



- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 09:30 – 13:00 | Brief introduction meeting with the Director of Institute of Albanology in Prishtina |
| 09:45 – 13:00 | Scientific roundtable: Comparative overview of Late Antiquity and Early Medieval archeology of Dalmatia and Dardania |
| 13:30 – 15:00 | Lunch at Pisha restaurant |
| 15:00 – 17:00 | Visit Ulpiana Archaeological Park |
| 19:00 | Free evening in Prishtina |

October 4, Tuesday:

Pick up from the hotel at 8:30 – Please bring appropriate clothes for hiking as the road is not paved in all the sites.

08:30 – 17:00 Visits to archaeological sites:

Harilaq Castle

Kasterc Castle

13:00 – 13:30 Break for snacks and coffee

Korisha Castle

17:00 – 19:00 Diner in Prizren

Below a brief introduction on all the sites!

October 5, Thursday: Return to Zara

Early Christian church in Harilaq

Name	Early Christian church in Harilaq
Municipality	Fusha Kosova
Village	Harilaq
Y	42.57823056000
X	20.99686389000
Statute	Under temporary protection
Research	Excavated
Period	Early Christian
Dimensions	22.2x 13.5 m
Aisle	3
Orientation	E-W
Shape	rectangular
Apse	positive
Narthex	positive
Exonarthex	positive
Lifespan	Not specified

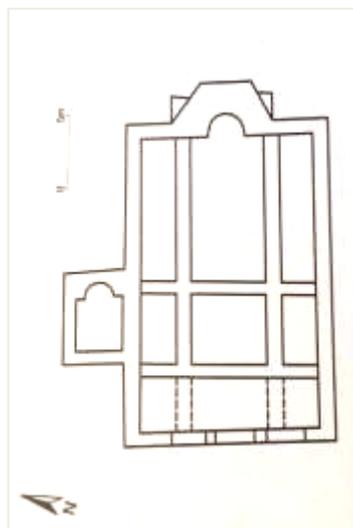


Figure 1. Plan of the basilica(F.Peja, B.Rraci, A. Hajdari-The castle of Harilaq,2015)

The early Christian church in Halilaq lies inside the the castle of Harilaq, a castle that has the characteristic of the castles of the Justinian period. This stronghold enters in the group of castles and fortifications reconstructed and constructed in Dardania (61 reconstructed and 8 constructed), by the byzantine emperor of Dardanian origin Justinian the Great (527–565 AD), recorded in the written work by the byzantine

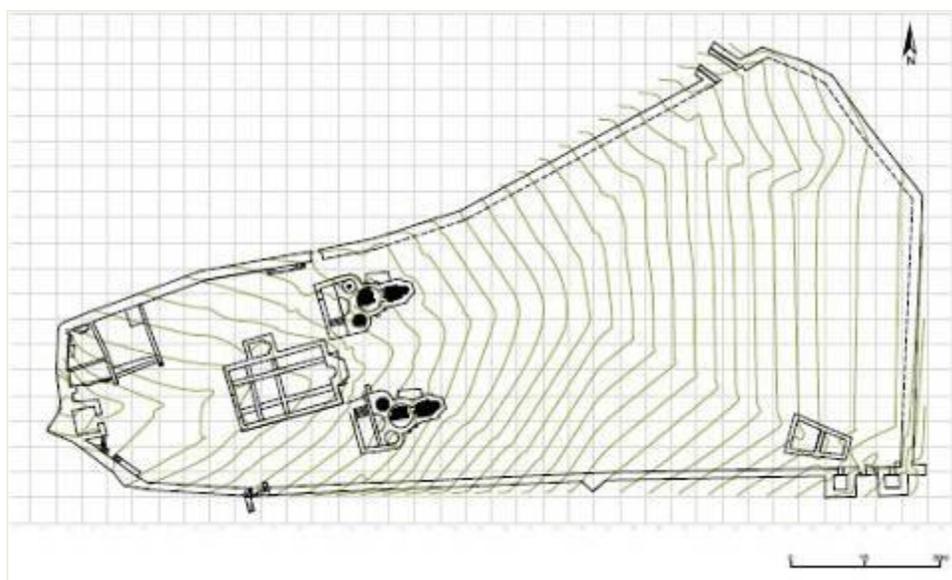


Figure 2. Plan of Harilaq fortress (F.Peja, B. Rraci, A. Hajdari: Castle of Harilaq, 2012)

historian of the 6th century, Procopius, on his book *De Aedificiis – On Buildings* – Procopius.¹

The settlement at Harilaq was first discovered in 1960's during an archaeological survey of the area by the Museum of Kosovo and the Archaeological Institute of Belgrade² (Çetinkaya 2017). The first campaign in this castle was conducted by the Archaeological Institute of Kosovo in 2005 as a general reconnaissance campaign with some trial trenches. From 2006-2010, the late archaeologist Fatmir Hoxha with the Museum of Kosovo conducted excavations. Although the excavation process brought to light different parts of the castle, in our interest is only the early Christian church and the ring shaped objects.³



Figure 3. Drone view over the Harilaq castle. (voyagekosovo,2018)

The so-called fortress church is located on a slightly elevated ground, on natural rock, with a view over the whole castle. The architecture of the church was adapted to the terrain of the natural rock, with the central nave being slightly higher than the side aisles.

The three aisled basilica with an orientation from east to west has dimensions 22.2x 13.5m with an apse that is rectangular in the interior and angled in the exterior. The walls of the structure are 1m thick, while in the part of the apse the thickness goes up to 1.5m. The central nave of the naos is 11.50m long and 4.85

¹Instituti Arkeologjik I Kosoves. *Harta Arkeologjike e Kosoves - Vellimi 2*. Prishtina: Ministria e Kultures, Rinise dhe Sportit, 2012, 218.

²Çetinkaya, Halûk. "Early Christianity in the Balkans and an unknown monastery from Harilaq / Kosovo." *STUDIA ACADEMICA ŠUMENENSIA*, 2017, 237-246.

³Peja, Fatmir; Rraci, Bedia; Hajdari, Arben. *The castle of Harilaq*. Prishtina: Museum of Kosovo, 2012, 16.

wide while the side aisle are 9.50 long and 2.25m wide. The narthex of the basilica is 3.30 long and the exonarthex 4.10m. The communication from the narthex to the naos was possible through three entrances separated with pillars, a typical early Christian *tribelon*. A small chapel was attached to the northern part of the basilica, with dimensions 5.80x3.90m and has an apse wide 1.90m. This chapel had only an opening from the side aisle of the basilica. The walls of the church are constructed of stonemasonry with lime stone bonding. Only the wall by the apse is built with bricks on the inside and stones on the outside. According to C. Haluk, this is a typical arrangement of the Constantinian period, but timewise it fits with later examples which became typical of Early churches of Constantinople⁴. (Çetinkaya 2017)

Generally, the church was found in very bad condition, making it impossible to determine if the ground was paved or not. Moreover, no traces of decoration or windows or even pillars were found leading to the assumption that the church was not finished at all.⁵

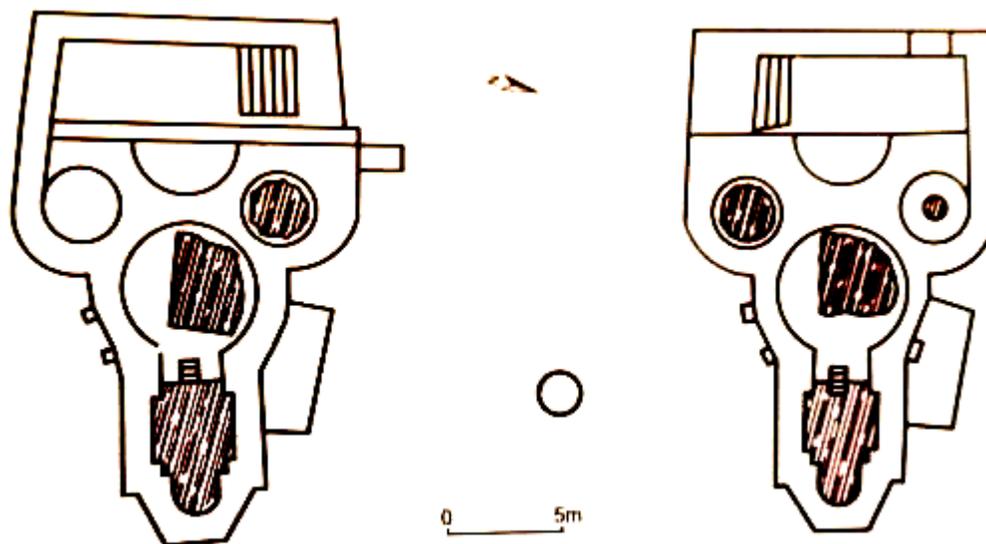


Figure 4. Plan of "ring" shaped buildings. (F.Peja, B. Rraci, A. Hajdari: Castle of Harlilaq, 2012)

East of the basilica lay two identical ring shaped objects, as in size, shape and their construction technique. Their construction is in line with the basilica (See plan above fig.12). The dimensions of the structures are 18.40x11.50m and are oriented east with a slight deviation to the north. The interesting shapes of these structures consist of three spherical elements and a half spherical one. The apse space is the main bigger spherical part is connected with a rectangular part with an apse. This space is paved with lime mortar with river sand mixed with brick dust, insulated with hydro-plaster. The buildings communicate with each other through a staircase. In the middle of these two structures lies a fountain. The archeologists of the site suggest that the structures served as *martyriums*. The building technique places the structures on the same period

⁴ Çetinkaya, Halûk. "Early Christianity in the Balkans and an unknown monastery from Harilaq / Kosovo." *STUDIA ACADEMICA ŠUMENENSIA*, 2017, 237-246.

⁵ Peja, Fatmir; Rraci, Bedia; Hajdari, Arben. *The castle of Harilaq*. Prishtina: Museum of Kosovo, 2012, 30.

with the basilica and the fortress. The archeologist Gezim Hoxha suggest that these buildings might have served as *Mausoleums*.⁶ According to C. Haluk, the high position of monastic settlement and difficulty in obtaining water considered these structures as cistern.⁷



Figure 5. Ring shaped buildings (C.Haluk, 2017)

⁶Hoxha, Gezim. "Die frühchristlichen Denkmäler und der Stand der Forschung zum frühen Christentum." *Die Mitteilungen zur Christlichen Archäologie (MiChA)*, 2016, 9-32.

⁷Çetinkaya, Halûk. "Early Christianity in the Balkans and an unknown monastery from Harilaq / Kosovo." *STUDIA ACADEMICA ŠUMENENSIA*, 2017, 237-246.

Early Christian church in Kasterc

Name	Early Christian church in Kasterc
Municipality	Suhereke
Village	Kasterc
Y	20°47'39.47"E
X	42°24'45.06"N
Statute	Under temporary protection
Research	Excavated
Period	Early Christian
Dimensions	Not specified
Aisle	3
Orientation	E-W
Shape	three apses
Apse	positive
Narthex	Not specified
Exonarthex	Not specified
Lifespan	Not specified



Figure 6. Early christian church of Kasterc (F. Peja, A. Hajdari, 2014)

The first archeological excavations in the Castle of Kasterc were conducted in 1986 to determine the date of the Castle by the Museum of Kosovo by archeologist S. Fidanovski and Z. Nedeljkovic⁸ (S. Fidanovski 1986). According to L. Perzhita, this castle is placed on the group of the castles rebuilt by Justinian recorded by Procopius of Cezarea, linking the name Kasterc with the toponym of *Castrum* from the list of Procopius⁹.

After several decades, in 2010, the museum of Kosovo conducts another expedition with the lead of Fatmir Peja in several parts of the castle, where among the discoveries were a residential building (C), two lines of the fortification wall (A) and a sacral monument with a triconch shape (D).¹⁰

⁸ Fidanovski, Slobodan, Nedeljkovic, Zvonimir. "Eneolitsko nasleje, ranocizantijsko utvrđenje i srednjovekovna nekropola." *Arheoloski pregled*, 1986, 4-5.

⁹ Perzhita, Luan. "Vlera kronologjike e te dhenave te Prokopit mbi ndertimet e Justinianit ne Provincen e Dardanise." In *Germime dhe studime arkeologjike ne Kosove 2000-2012*, by ASHAK, Prishtina: ASHAK, 189-206.

¹⁰ Peja, Fatmir, Hajdari, Arben. "Kalaja e Kastercit - rezultatet e germimeve arkeologjike (2010-2012)." In *Germime dhe studime arkeologjike ne Kosove 2000-2012*, by ASHAK, Prishtina: ASHAK, 2014, 328-352.

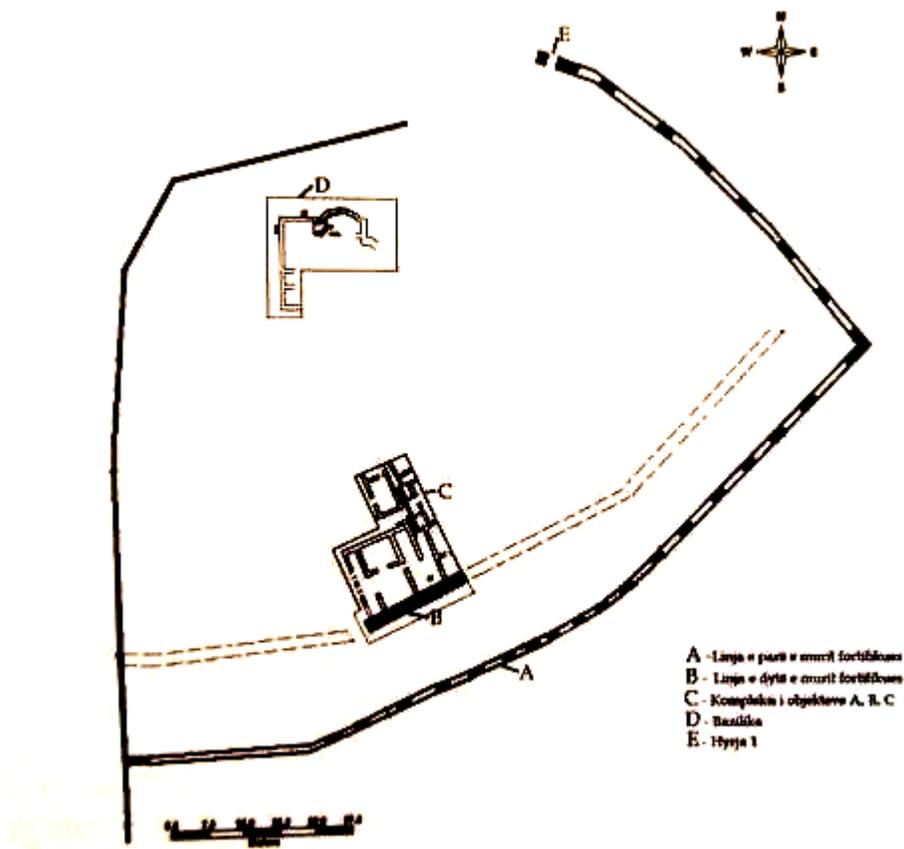


Figure 7. Plan of Kasterc Castle (F.Peja 2014, Germime dhe Studime arkeologjike ne Kosove 2000-2012)

The three-aisled church with a shape of triconch is situated in the highest peak of the castle¹¹. Only the north and the west part of the church are excavated to this point. To this point, the west part of the building and the northern conch and a part of the eastern conch are revealed. A total of 19.5m of the building in length has been excavated.

The walls of the triconch are constructed of unhewn stones bonded with lime mortar. The walls of the building have a thickness of 1 meter. Three entrances that lead to the naos were discovered the first entrance from the south part with dimensions 1.70 m, the second one on the north part with dimensions 1.50m and the third entrance on the northwest corner with dimensions 2.30m.

¹¹ Hoxha, Gezim. "Die frühchristlichen Denkmäler und der Stand der Forschung zum frühen Christentum." *Die Mitteilungen zur Christlichen Archäologie (MiChA)*, 2016, 9-32.

The north wall of the building is supported by a flying buttress on each side, while the southern wall is supported by three flying buttresses that are not connected directly with the wall. There are evidences that the building has undergone several changes. There is a wall (between the northern wall and the northern conch) built on a later phase with a thickness of 30 cm, where gravels were used for mortar. Also, the northern entrance has been shrunk on a later phase, but as a bonding material, clay mortar was used.¹²

The floor of the building is preserved quite well. It is paved with lime mortar with brick dust and river sand. The floor was placed directly above the natural rock. Moreover, plastering was encountered *in-situ* in the

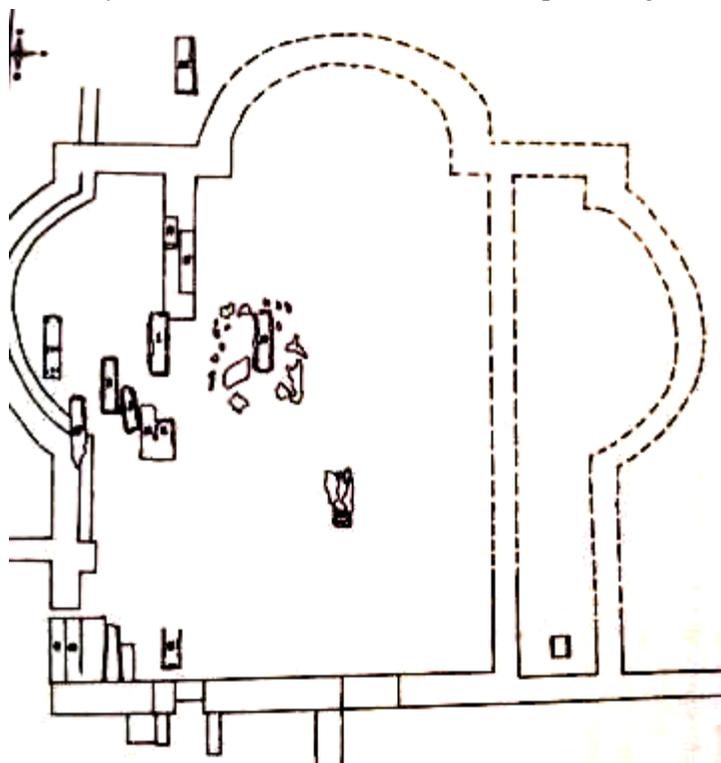


Figure 8. Plan of the church in Kasterc (F. Peja, A. Hajdari, 2014)

western and northern wall with a thickness of 4cm. The color of the plaster is beige. More than 25 graves were encountered inside and outside of the walls of the church. The excavated graves brought to light findings that date these graves from the 10th to the 12th century AD. Based on the building technique of the church and the archaeological findings, the archeologists place this church in the group of early mediaeval churches of the 6th century AD.¹³

¹² Fatmir Peja, Arben Hajdari. "Kalaja e Kastercit - rezultatet e germimeve arkeologjike (2010-2012)." In *Germime dhe studime arkeologjike ne Kosove 2000-2012*, by ASHAK, Prishtina: ASHAK, 2014, 328-352.

¹³ Fatmir Peja, Arben Hajdari. "Kalaja, 328-352.

Early Christian church in Korisha

Name	Early Christian church in Korisha
Komun	Prizren
Village	Korishë
Y	7483453.88
X	4679086.45
Statute	Permanent protection
Research	Excavated
Period	Early Christian
Dimensions	20, 7x13,40m
Aisle	1
Orientation	E-W
Shape	rectangular
Apse	positive
Narthex	positive
ExoNarthex	Not specified
Lifespan	Late medieval

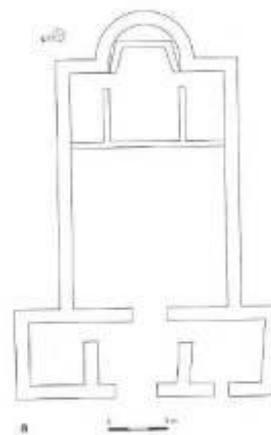


Figure 9. Plan of church of Korisha(AMP, 2006)

The archaeological excavations in the Korisha fortress located at the area known by the toponymy as the ‘Gralishta’ hill ¹⁴ were conducted in 2002¹⁵ where the existence of the church was documented and in 2004¹⁶ a detailed excavation campaign was conducted where an early Christian church of the 6th century AD was revealed and its plan was documented. Excavations continued again in 2007, through out the fortification and in the prehistoric site, hundred meters away from the fortress. ¹⁷

The basilica was revealed inside the fortification. The revealed basilica is 20,7 m long with a direction from east to west and is of single nave type. Its walls have a thickness of 0,70m. The basilica has a semicircular apse with a radius of 3,7m. The naos of the basilica has a rectangular shape and has dimension of 9,20 x 16 m. While the narthex is also rectangular and has dimensions of 4,70 x 13,40 m. The main entrance of the basilica is 1,85m long, and is constructed with a slight asymmetry in relation with the main façade. While the entrance from the narthex to the naos, is symmetrical with the naos (fig.1)¹⁸.

¹⁴ Berisha, Milot. *Archaeological Guide of Kosovo*. Prishtina: Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, 2012, 83.

¹⁵ Gezim Hoxha, Luan Kocbashliu, A. Bullguri conducted archeological excavation.

¹⁶ Gezim Hoxha, Luan Kocbashliu, Shafi Gashi et al conducted archeological excavation.

¹⁷ Hoxha, Gezim. "On the archeological excavations in the Early Christian Church in village Korishe." *Kosova Archeologica 1*, 2005, 167.

¹⁸ Kastrati, Luan Përzhita Kemajl Luci Gëzim Hoxha Adem Bunguri Fatmir Peja Tomor. *Harta arkeologjike e Kosovës I*. Prishtina: AKADEMIA E SHKENCAVE DHE E ARTEVE E KOSOVËS, 2006, 232.

The narthex is divided into three parts, the main space and two small rooms in the north and south. The north room has dimension of 2,90 x 3,30 m and an entrance of 1 m connecting it with the narthex. The south room has dimensions of 3,60 x 3,30 m, and its entrance is mirrored like the north one. This room has also an opening to the main façade as a parallel entrance to the basilica. From the ground plan of the basilica asymmetries are visible, but for a building of this size.¹⁹



Figure 10. Early Christian basilica in Korisha (AGK, 2012)

The wall of the basilica seems to have been built simultaneously with a same style all around. It has a thickness of 0.70m. It consists of stone masonry bonded with lime mortar. Although, the lime is of low quality, the masons seem to have been very professional in applying the stones and the lime mortar in a very professional way. For the walls of the facades the stones were selected more carefully. There are also traces of plastering “*in-situ*”, on the parts of the altar with a thickness of 3-4cm²⁰. The lime mortar used for plastering has a little amount of sand. On the part of the apse, some parts of plastering appear with red color.

As for the floor, the basilica throughout the plan has lime mortar flooring. There are parts of tiny stones and brick dust in the consistency of the floor. The floor has a thickness of 3-5cm and its directly attached with the ground. The ground is consisted of soil colored grey to black. The top layer of the floor seems to be laminated. On the north part of the apse where the synthrone is located flooring seems to be missing.²¹

¹⁹ Hoxha, Gezim. "Die frühchristlichen Denkmäler und der Stand der Forschung zum frühen Christentum." *Die Mitteilungen zur Christlichen Archäologie (MiChA)*, 2016, 9-32 .

²⁰ Hoxha, Gezim. "On the archeological excavations in the Early Christian Church in village Korishe." *Kosova Archeologica 1*, 2005, 168.

²¹ Hoxha, Gezim. "On the archeological excavations in the Early Christian Church in village Korishe." *Kosova Archeologica 1*, 2005: 175-186, 169.

During excavations in the inner part of the apse, traces of the construction of the synthrone were noticed. The *synthron* has a trapezoidal shape, with the narrow base directed to the east. The *synthron* has a simple step of 22-25 cm above the floor of the church. Side legs, the north and south ones, are 1,76m long, while the east one is 2,5m long. On the main part of the synthron, there was no visible lime mortar, leading to the assumption that there used to be the wooden cathedra.

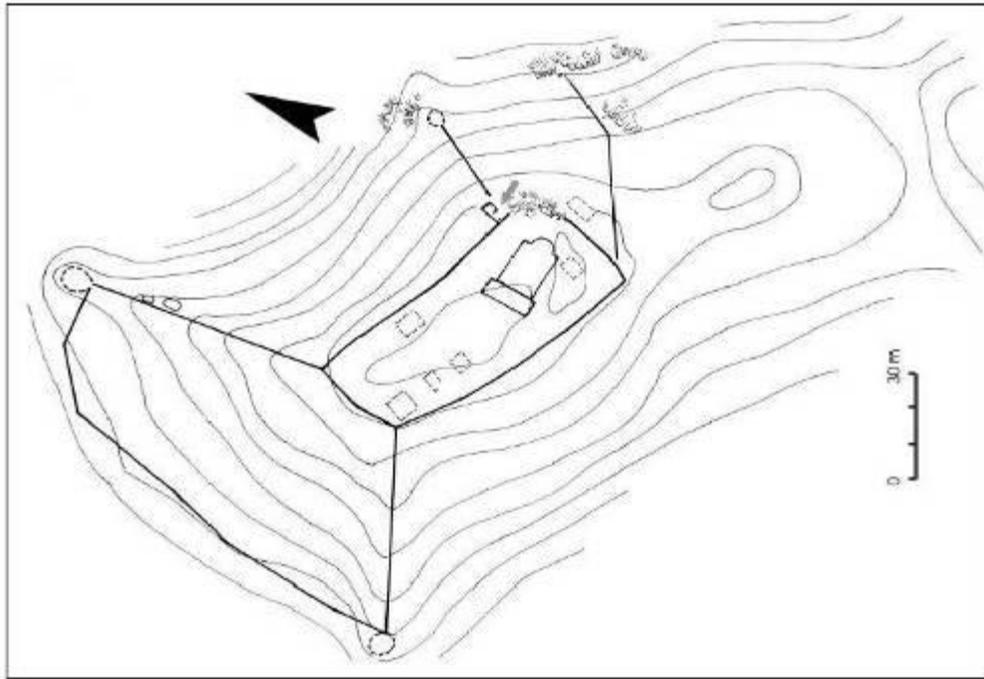


Figure 11. Korishas plan (AMK, 2006)

Another important discovery in this building is the appearance of the chancel (presbyterium). The traces of its foundations are visible on the floor of the church. The base of the presbyterium has a base of 0,30 cm. The current excavations have not revealed any architectural part of this structure. The unexcavated parts inside the church might bring light to this discovery. (Hoxha 2015)²²

As for archeological findings, there are two groups of findings that characterize this archaeological site. The first group consists of the findings from the prehistoric period inside the church, probably from the already identified prehistoric site nearby. The second group of findings consists with the existence of the church.

²² Hoxha, Gezim. "L'église paléochrétienne de Korishë et quelques traits du christianisme ancien dans le territoire de la Dardanie Occidentale." *L'ILLYRIE MÉRIDIONALE ET L'ÉPIRE DANS L'ANTIQUITÉ*, 2015, 831-846.

Mainly, ceramic pots, as *amphora*, *pitos* and *cups* were found. Moreover, glass dishes and animal bones were encountered.²³

Due to the findings on the spot, the church was dated in the 6th century. The finding of late medieval period ceramics in the proximity of the walls, led to the assumption that the building was abandoned in the pre-Turk period.²⁴



Figure 12. Korisha basilica (G.Hoxha, 2016)

²³ Hoxha, Gezim. "On the archeological excavations in the Early Christian Church in village Korishe." *Kosova Archeologica* 1, 2005, 169.

²⁴ Kastrati, Luan Përzhita Kemajl Luci Gëzim Hoxha Adem Bunguri Fatmir Peja Tomor. *Harta arkeologjike e Kosoves I*. Prishtina: AKADEMIA E SHKENCAVE DHE E ARTEVE E KOSOVËS, 2006, 232.