



# PRAYTICIPATE

**PRAYTICIPATE - COST Action CA23143**

Participation through Prayer in the Late Medieval and Early Modern World

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## **Prayer and Setting**

### **Space, Place, Movement, Ritual, Service and Text:**

*A Participatory Pilgrimage-and-Prayer-Immersion Research Skills-Sharing Event*

**Albania, 23-25.06.2026**

#### *Background*

Prayer is not merely an individual act of devotion, but a communal practice shaped and enriched by its environment—whether tangible or intangible. From the space, place and architecture that enfolds a congregation to the rituals, liturgical movements, texts and services that structure devotion, every element contributes to an immersive experience for worshippers. A close, contextual reading of these “setting-proxies” (space, place, movement, ritual, service and text) is therefore essential to capture the plurality and dynamism of prayer across late medieval and early modern faith traditions.

In this context, the aim of the meeting is to explore how material and immaterial contexts frame and inform communal and individual prayer; to bring together scholars working on late medieval and early modern Christian and Islamic monuments in Albania; to immerse graduate and doctoral students in the theories, approaches and methods within these contexts; and to foster interdisciplinary dialogue on methodologies for contextual analysis in the study of prayer.

The meeting will take the form of a skills-sharing event, during which the participants will have a chance to share their skills, knowledge and expertise at a workshop. They will also get a chance to participate in pilgrimage to select sites (e.g. Berat and the relics of Saints Angelarios, Gorazd and Nikodemos, Et’hem bey mosque, Krujë and the tekke of Sari Salltik, Saint Anthony of Padua and Saint Blaise, Laç), which will enable communal immersion, contemplation, and on-field observation. This part, combined with a workshop on pilgrimage and prayer immersion would be the content of the participatory pilgrimage-and-prayer-immersion research skills-sharing event.

Although there is a mobility component embedded in this activity, all sites are accessible by bus and our bus will get to these places. The sole site inaccessible to a bus is the church of the Archangel Michael in Berat. Participants are requested to state in advance whether or not they will opt to go by bus up to the pilgrimage site.



# PRAYTICIPATE

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### *Tentative Programme*

**Day 1 (Tuesday, 23.06.2026):** Visit to the pilgrimage of Saint Anthony of Padua and Saint Blaise, Laç and the Tekke of Sari Salltik.

09.00-09.30	Registration at LOGOS University College
09.30	Departure from LOGOS University College
10.30	Arrival at the city of Laç.
10.30-11.30	Pilgrimage pathway to the monastery of Saint Anthony of Padua and Saint Blaise.
11.30-14.00	Pilgrimage to the monastery and the cave of Saint Blaise.
14.00-15.30	Travel to the pilgrimage site of Sari Salltik's tekke (with a stop at Sari Salltik's footstep).
15.30-17.00	Visit at the pilgrimage site and Bektashi spirituality.
17.30-19.30	Visit to the old Bazaar and historical mosque of Kruja, supper in Kruja's old city.
19.30	Departure to Tirana

#### **1. Saint Anthony of Padua and Saint Blaise's Cave, Laç**

- i. *Laç's accessibility:* The site of the monastery is also accessible by small buses. **Participants have the option to go to the monastery by our bus.**
- ii. *Distance:* The site is also accessible on foot from the city of Laç: 3 km – ca. 60 minutes.
- iii. *Risk / Difficulty level:* Low to Medium.

#### **2. Sar Satllik's Tekke and Cave, Krujë**

- i. *Distance:* From the city of Krujë to the tekke on foot: 3.5 km – ca. 2 hrs; **however, we will be visiting the site by bus (30 minutes).**

**Day 2 (Thursday, 25.06.2025):** Visit to Berat, focus on the medieval castle and city, the veneration of the Holy Seven Saints, the relics and pilgrimage of saints Angelarios and Gorazd (two of the seven saints) and saint Nikodemos.

09.00-09.30	Registration at LOGOS University College
09.30	Departure from LOGOS University College
12.00	Arrival at the city of Berat.
12.00-13.00	Visit at the first two pilgrimage sites of Saint Nikodemos (ruins of the church of the Nativity of the Virgin called "Shumbull" and the church of the Archangel Michael, which is only accessible on foot).
13.00-15.00	Visit at Saint Nikodemos Chapel and his skull; visit at the Bachelor's Mosque and the Küliye (Complex) of the King's mosque.



# PRAYTICIPATE

## PRAYTICIPATE - COST Action CA23143

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15.00-15.30	Walking uphill to Berat's Castle. <i>Participants have the option to go to the Castle by our bus.</i>
15.30-17.00	Visit at the "Onufri" Museum and the reliquary of the Holy Seven Saints.
17.00-18.00	Visit to the early Christian, medieval and Ottoman heritage of Berat's Castle (In Berat Castle, there are around 8 Byzantine churches and the ruins of the White and the Red Mosque, which are among the oldest in Albania. It is one of the few castles still inhabited).
18.00 – 19.30	Supper in Berat's Castle.
21.00	Arrival in Tirana
<b>Berat</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. <i>Berat's accessibility:</i> fully accessible.</li><li>ii. <i>Distances:</i> From city centre to Castle on foot: 1.3 km – ca. 30 minutes.</li><li>iii. <i>Risk level:</i> Low.</li></ul>	

### **Day 3 (Wednesday, 24.06.2026):** 09.00 – 13.00 Visiting select sites in Tirana

09.00	Meeting at Scanderbeg Square, by the <a href="#">statue of George Castriota Scanderbeg</a> .
09.15-10.15	Visit at the Et'hem bey Mosque, Tirana.
11.00-12.15	Visit at the Bektashi Order Headquarters (or the State Archives?)
13.00-14.00	<i>Lunch break</i>
14.00-14.30	Konstantinos Giakoumis & Joana Dhiamandi, Prayer and Setting: Space, Place, Architecture, Ritual, Movement Texts & Services. An Introduction.
14.30-15.30	Prayer and Setting Group Discussion: Space, Place, Architecture.
15.30-16.00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
16.00-17.00	Prayer and Setting Group Discussion: Ritual, Movement Texts & Services.
<b>Tirana</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. <i>Tirana's accessibility:</i> fully accessible.</li><li>ii. <i>Distances:</i> From city centre to the Bektashi Order Headquarters on foot: 2.9 km – ca. 45 minutes.</li><li>iii. <i>Risk level:</i> Low.</li></ul>	



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## Useful, Digitized Starting English Bibliography

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- Elsie, Robert, "The Christian Saints of Albania", *Balkanistica* 13 (2000): 35-57. [Link](#)
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- Elsie, Robert. 2003. *Early Albania: A Reader of Historical Texts, 11<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> Centuries*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag. [Link](#).
- Elsie, Robert. 2010. *Historical Dictionary of Albania*, Second edition. Lanham: The Scarecrow Press. [Link](#).
- Giakoumis, Konstantinos. 2014. "From Religious to Secular and Back Again: Christian Pilgrimage Space in Albania." In *Pilgrimage, Politics and Place-Making in Eastern Europe: Crossing the Borders*, edited by John Eade and Mario Katić, 103-18. London: Ashgate. [Link](#).
- Giakoumis, Konstantinos, ed. 2015. *Water in Arts and Crafts in the Berat Region. 4<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. to 19<sup>th</sup> Century A.D.* Tirana: Gentgrafik. [Link](#).
- Giakoumis, Konstantinos. 2023. "Pilgrimage Diffusion and Polycentrism in the Veneration of Saint Nicodemus of Berat." In *Pilgrimage in the Christian Balkan World: The Path to Touch the Sacred and Holy*, edited by Dorina Dragnea, Emmanouil Ger. Varvounis, Evelyn ReuterPetko Hristov and Susan Sorek, 69-90. Turnhout: Brepols. DOI: 10.1484/M.STR-EB.5.132400. [Link](#).
- Giakoumis, Konstantinos and Lockwood, Christopher. 2018. "Death Proximity, Group Cohesion & Mountainous Pilgrimage in Albania." In *Landscape in Southeastern Europe*, edited by Lena Mirošević, Gregory Zaro, Mario Katić, Daniela Birt, 89-128. Zürich: Lit Verlag. [Link](#).
- Kiel, Machiel. 1990. *Ottoman Architecture in Albania (1385-1912)*. Istanbul: Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture.



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## **LODGING & FOOD AROUND LOGOS University College**

### **Accommodation**

#### **1- Hotel Colosseo Tirana**

Contact: Rruga e Durrësit 19, Tirana 1001, Albania Tel: +355 (0) 4 222 0010 Mob: +355 (0) 69 703 0806 E-mail: [info@hotelcolosseotirana.com](mailto:info@hotelcolosseotirana.com) & [reservations@hotelcolosseotirana.com](mailto:reservations@hotelcolosseotirana.com). Web: [www.hotelcolosseotirana.com](http://www.hotelcolosseotirana.com)

#### **2- Hotel Mondial**

Contact: Rr. "Muhamet Gjollësia", 1023, Tirana, Albania Tel.: +355 4 22 58 121/2 & +355 4 22 32 372/ Cell: +355 68 20 04 642. E mail: [info@hotelmondial.al](mailto:info@hotelmondial.al). Web: [www.hotelmondial.al](http://www.hotelmondial.al).

#### **3- Hotel TIRANA International**

Contact: Scanderbeg Square, Tirana, 1001, Albania. Tel.: +355 4 223 41 85. Web: <https://tiranainternational.com>. e-mail: [reservation@tiranainternational.com](mailto:reservation@tiranainternational.com).

#### **4- Hotel KEIT**

Contact: 8 Dritan Hoxha Road, 1001, Tirana, ALBANIA. Tel.: +355 69404 5111. Web: <https://hotel.keit.al/>. e-mail: [keit.hotel@gmail.com](mailto:keit.hotel@gmail.com).

Dear Participants,

Please note that the hotel suggestions above and the restaurant suggestions below are by no means exhaustive. They have been selected solely on the grounds of distance from LOGOS University College. Tirana's hotel and apartment choices have grown exponentially in recent years. You might also have even heard that Tirana has recently become a gourmet destination. Please explore choices. A good start is Tirana's Tourist Guide accessible [here](#).



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### Food

**1- Oda Garden**

Tel.: +355 69 204 0145. Web: [https://maps.app.goo.gl/N5nRvCfpYcQYAd4e7?g\\_st=iwb](https://maps.app.goo.gl/N5nRvCfpYcQYAd4e7?g_st=iwb)

**2- Ceren Ismet Shehu**

Tel.: +355 69 386 6665. Web: [https://maps.app.goo.gl/jDAj4T7yYSqjzJvT9?g\\_st=iwb](https://maps.app.goo.gl/jDAj4T7yYSqjzJvT9?g_st=iwb)

**3- Fish Time - Restaurant Peshku Tirane**

Tel.: +355 69 444 8424. Web: [https://maps.app.goo.gl/Dcp1BLLP6g5BDyXTA?g\\_st=iwb](https://maps.app.goo.gl/Dcp1BLLP6g5BDyXTA?g_st=iwb)

**4- Van Gogh Tirana**

Tel.: +355 68 300 0030. Web: [https://maps.app.goo.gl/Hp8Kz49AzSzEAKx19?g\\_st=iwb](https://maps.app.goo.gl/Hp8Kz49AzSzEAKx19?g_st=iwb)

**5- Bujtina e Gjelit**

Tel.: +355 4 240 5855. Web: [https://maps.app.goo.gl/kreQTmNQMwkkiiyPXA?g\\_st=iwb](https://maps.app.goo.gl/kreQTmNQMwkkiiyPXA?g_st=iwb)

### Useful Contact Details

No.	Contact Person	Capacity	Telephone	E-mail
1	Prof. Konstantinos Giakoumis	Host	+355692070592	<a href="mailto:Konstantinos.giakoumis@kulogos.edu.al">Konstantinos.giakoumis@kulogos.edu.al</a>
2	Dr. Joana Dhiamandi	Co-Host	+355695115892	<a href="mailto:joanadhiamandi@gmail.com">joanadhiamandi@gmail.com</a>

### Taxi

Taxi Price Estimate To & From TIA: 12-20 € (ca. 20' to LOGOS University College). How to get a taxi in Tirana: Various taxi companies serve Tirana; you can hail a taxi directly off the street, head to a popular tourist location, or any big hotel. However, if you wish to book a Tirana cab in advance, you can book through the company's website, mobile application or via telephone. Some popular choices: 1. Merr Taxi: +355 800 5555. 2. Smart Taxi: +355 69 702 0002. 3. City Taxi: +355 0800 0000 or +355 42 444 888.

Emergency service numbers in the Republic of Albania	
Ambulance:	127
Fire brigade:	128
Rescue police:	129
Traffic police:	126