

EMBASSY UPDATES

NEWSLETTER FOR U.S. CITIZENS IN KOSOVO



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Swim Safety

Summertime is swimming time. Whether at the pool or the beach, safety is important. According to the World Health Organization, [drowning](#) is the third highest cause of death by mishap, with more than 300,000 people dying annually. In Kosovo, pools usually have access fences but rarely have lifeguards. Beaches in surrounding areas normally have neither. Another



concern is bacteria and other pollutants in the water. It is up to you to keep your family safe. Always swim with a buddy. If children are going near water, make sure an adult is with them – preferably one who can swim. Teach the whole family to swim. Prepared means fewer problems. The [Red Cross](#) has some tips on their website. Make sure the water is safe for everyone by not swimming with indigestion problems and not

allowing children to swim with diarrhea. The [Centers for Disease Control](#) have other suggestions to help prevent contamination of swimming water – on the beach or in the pool.

Ten swimming areas tested in 2018 by the [European Environmental Agency](#) in Albania were found to have water unsafe for swimming. While this means 90% of Albanian swimming beaches tested excellent to sufficient, you should be on guard for unsafe water. This [article](#) explains how to spot rivers and lakes unsafe for swimming, while this one identifies [signs a pool's water](#) is stressed.



Have fun in the water this summer, and remember to be safe too.



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Embassy Move

Yes, we're finally moving! The move will be completed during the first week of September. Once we settle in and have things organized, we will open appointments to the public. A MASCOT message will be sent out when we're ready. If you need to apply for a new passport or a Consular Report of Birth Abroad or other service, we recommend you make an appointment to come in before August 23rd. That way, there will be no delays in service for you. Our emergency number and [email address](#) will be monitored during the move if you need help. We look forward to seeing you in our new home soon.



The U.S. Embassy Consular Section will be closed on these dates:

Monday, August 12—Eid Al-Addha
Monday, October 14—Columbus Day

Monday, September 3, 2019—Labor Day
Monday, November 11, 2019—
Veterans' Day

Thursday, November 28—Thanksgiving Day

Peja Brewery—Unseen Kosovo

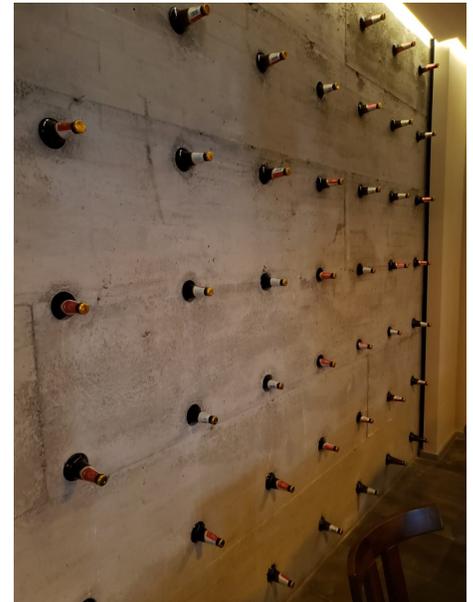
Founded in 1971, [Peja Brewery](#) has been in constant production since. The company privatized in 2006, has a market investment of approximately \$40 million and employs 260 people. Annual beer production is 30 million liters. Other production includes Akull water and Sola products, which are licensed from Slovenia. Soon, Peja will also be selling a new



energy drink. All water used at the plant comes from a private spring outside Peje, which is monitored for purity and quality. It takes up to forty days to make Peja, which comes in Pilsner, Peja 0, and Peja dark. If the market expands, Peja may add an IPA in the new year. Peja exports to Montenegro, Albania, and North Macedonia, where it has significant market share.

Peja takes its responsibility for the environment seriously. It owns EcoPark, a solar farm that provides energy back to KEK. Kosovo has seven to eight months' worth of sunny days every year, which makes the farm efficient to operate. While it was a large initial investment,

outlay for maintenance is minimal. A glass beer bottle can be used up to thirty times before it needs to be melted and reformed. Peja has a bottle return program with its larger customers to do this, and it sends old, cracked, and broken bottles to its supplier in Bulgaria to be made new.



The brewery itself is filled with modern equipment and methods and is an industrial wonder to visit. Plastic bottles for Sola run through a rim injection molding machine and are almost immediately cooled and filled with drink. Chilled beer runs into glass bottles and aluminum cans straight from the maturation and filtering tanks. All of this depends on a state of the art control room to work.



There's a lot of work behind the cold Peja you enjoy this summer. Cheers!



Jalapenos Grow In Kosovo—American Business Highlight



Simon Hoopes and his wife Christa are helping Kosovo farmers develop a new crop for domestic sales and export – jalapenos. What started as a project for themselves with seeds from a family member has grown into a 30,000 kilogram crop in Peje. Farmers grow and harvest jalapeno plants, then they are processed at the ABI facility in Prizren using a brine recipe invented by Simon. Locally, the peppers are sold in jars and cans under the brand name ABI Progres. Through a partnership with a Macedonian company, the jalapenos are sold throughout Europe. Eventually, the company wants to open a produce canning and processing factory in the Peje area to process, preserve, and sell farm fresh fruits and vegetables. If you are interested in helping with the project or in buying some jalapenos, contact Simon directly.



Need Fingerprints? Here's Where to Go!



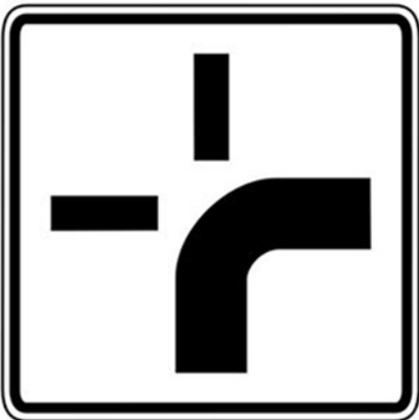
The Kosovo Police have granted US citizens a great favor. If you need fingerprints to send back to the US for a background check for a residency permit or for a security clearance, they will do it for free. Please see our website [here](#) to learn more. Thank you, Kosovo Police.

Passport Application Change

Passport applications are changing soon! When you apply for a new passport, please [follow our link](#) to get the latest passport application and fill it out before you come in. This saves you time and aggravation.



Road Sign of the Quarter



- A. Big right turn ahead.
- B. You have priority at the intersection.
- C. Sparkly curve.
- D. Swerve now.

Answer: You have priority at the intersection.