



Get to know

NEPRA- VISHTA

#NËFSHAT

Albanian Rural Touristic Villages

-the land of life and vitality



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Introduction

It is now well known that one of the unique features of Albania is the diversity of its nature. As a result, no city in Albania is like another, and no village is the same as another.

Every land has its own ecosystem, shaped by the dominance of mountains, seas, lakes, rivers, or rocks — or a harmonious blend of all. In turn, the people of each place have absorbed the essence of the nature around them, or that which they have chosen to call home.





The Cypress village

The road to Nepravishta

“

In Libohove, I have savored the most exquisite dishes, far surpassing those of Spain and Portugal, and I have beheld the most beautiful girls.

~ Lord Byron, Autumn 1809

Not all comparisons are welcomed by people, but when such words come from figures who have shaped history and art, we can do nothing but accept them as truth and embark on a journey to uncover their meaning...



Nepravishta lies in the southern reaches of Albania, nestled along the Drino Valley, at the foot of Mount Burretos, close to the “Vriz Stream,” a karstic stream with crystal-clear, refreshing waters. This peaceful village is surrounded by vineyards, fruit orchards, and lush greenery. It is part of the Municipality of Libohova, a mere 10 km away from it, and 25 km from the historic city of Gjirokastër. The journey to Nepravishta takes just 25 minutes by car from Libohova, or 40 minutes from Gjirokastër.

The first thing you must understand when setting off for Nepravishta from Libohova is that the road was forged through the labor and contribution of the village’s own hands—its residents’ physical and economic effort.

And it is here you will learn how this village, rich in natural beauty, cultural heritage, history, and agricultural wealth, has always been conscious of and thankful for its divine blessings. This gratitude is evident in its people, steadfast and resilient, who have never been swayed by the tides of emigration, despite the village’s location at the border with Greece.

HELLAS
ALBANIA

Nepravishtë

Libohovë

 25 min

 40 min

Lazarat

Gjirokaštër

07



A bit of Culture. A bit of History

What makes Nepravishta so mystical is the deep connection the village shares with one of the valley's most significant religious landmarks – the Melani Tekke.

The Melani Tekke is located within the ruins of the ancient Melani Castle, which was an extension of the old civilization that once thrived here.

The city of Melani is believed to date back earlier than all other settlements in the region, around the 3rd century BC. Archaeological discoveries show influences from the Roman and Byzantine periods, and some even believe this city may have been called “Justinianopolis”.

For the people of Nepravishta today, the Melani Tekke is not only a cultural but also a spiritual monument. They view the Tekke as a “home for all,” with its roots tracing back to the 19th century, though the ruins contain traces of even older periods. The building, made entirely of stone, is so immensely admired by the locals, that they refuse to believe that it was made by mere humans, but rather that it was crafted by divine hands.



Though the Tekke was repurposed as a military barracks during the communist era, its strength remains undeniable. The structure continues to stand tall, unaffected by time, surrounded by towering trees planted to form the symbol of "Allah."

While Nepravishta is predominantly a Bektashi village, it is also home to a blend of cultures and beliefs from different historical periods. From ancient pagan practices to the Bektashi tradition, and even Christian influences seen in Orthodox churches and monasteries in the area known as Manastiraq, the village is a living testament to a rich mosaic of spiritual heritage.

This diversity is reflected in the way the village has grown and developed over time.

Nepravishta is made up of four main neighborhoods, each rooted in kinship. Although the neighborhoods are far apart from one another, they coexist in harmony. The northern neighborhood, also called the Lower Neighborhood, is the oldest, containing archaeological ruins from the ancient Illyrian civilization.

The Kroj neighborhood, surrounding the village spring and school, grew during the communist era. Today, it is considered the most vibrant and social area in Nepravishta.

The Nepravishta-Fushe area, which is a newer part of the village, was developed after the 1990s to accommodate the growing needs of the community, as the older neighborhoods struggled with basic infrastructure.

As can be seen, Nepravishta is a place of growth, not decline. The expansion of its territory stands as a silent tribute to everything the land holds and all the blessings it continues to offer.



Farm Tourism in Nepravishta: Where Land and Life meet!

Nestled in the heart of southern Albania, Nepravishta is where nature and tradition unite in a perfect, timeless harmony. The village, surrounded by blossoming orchards, ancient olive groves, lush vineyards, and rich farmland, invites you to slow down and immerse yourself in the simple pleasures of rural life.

In Nepravishta, the landscape is alive with stories. The sight of trees heavy with fruit, the feel of soft earth beneath your feet, the scent of wild herbs on the breeze, and the taste of fresh, organic produce—all of these come together in a beautiful, sensory dance. It's a place where the rhythm of nature and the pace of life are deeply intertwined, and where the age-old agricultural traditions of the village are kept alive by those who call it home.



The people of Nepravishta have always held a profound respect for the land. "Without work, nothing is achieved," they say, and their dedication is evident in the abundance the earth provides.

Figs, pomegranates, apples, grapes, chestnuts, and a bounty of vegetables—everything flourishes here, nurtured by generations of care and hard work. It's a place where nature's generosity is met with devotion and gratitude, passed down through the years.



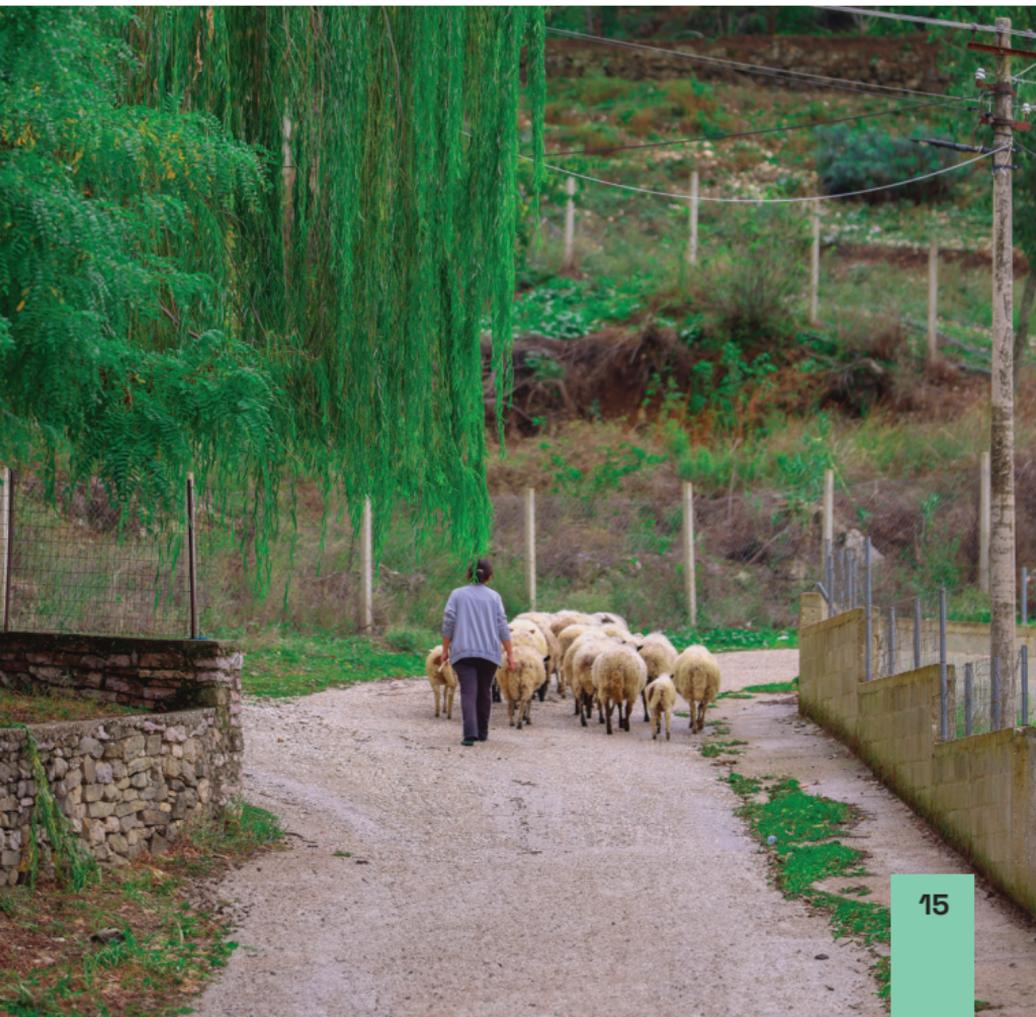
Agriculture in Nepravishta is more than just a livelihood—it's a tradition woven into the very fabric of village life. Today, 10 agricultural enterprises and around 190 farmers work nearly 1,000 hectares of land in the valley, stretching into the neighboring Dropulli region. Cooperation is at the heart of it all: farmers share tools and machinery, coordinating irrigation efforts to ensure the land's continued fertility.

In Nepravishta, the tradition of animal husbandry is a cornerstone of village life, with local cows and goats providing fresh, high-quality milk. These dairy products are not only enjoyed by the villagers but are also traded with nearby towns, strengthening connections within the region.

The care and attention given to the animals and their produce reflect the deep connection the people have to the land.

Equally important to the village is its beekeeping tradition. With around 30 beekeepers, Nepravishta produces honey that captures the essence of its surrounding nature. Rich and aromatic, the honey is as varied as the landscape itself, and it's a product visitors won't want to miss.

The village's agricultural legacy also includes the cultivation of “Moredhato” tobacco—once exported to France, it was prized for its exceptional quality, especially in the vibrant cabarets of Paris. This tobacco, a symbol of the village's fertile soil and skilled hands, stands as a proud reminder of the past.



As a visitor, you'll have the chance to step into this world and witness the traditional processes firsthand. Whether it's helping harvest fruit, learning the art of olive oil production, or simply wandering the vineyards, you'll find yourself connected to the land in ways that are both enriching and grounding.

Each season in Nepravishta brings new colors to the landscape—the deep greens of summer, the golden hues of autumn, and the crisp air of winter. Agrotourism here is not just about sightseeing; it's about becoming a part of the land's story. Each farm, each plant, each harvest is a chapter in a living history, where the past and present coexist in a landscape of endless beauty.

In Nepravishta, time slows down, allowing you to experience life as it has been lived for generations—simply, organically, and with deep respect for the earth. Discover the beauty of this rural corner of Albania, connect with its people, and savor the fruits of a land that tells its own timeless tale.



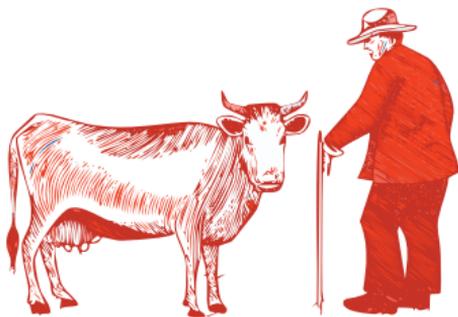


The People of Nepravishta

The people of Nepravishta are beautiful, vibrant, and full of color, much like the lands and nature they cherish.

The village buzzes with life, animated by the active presence of its residents. This area has been very little affected by the migration trend. As mentioned earlier, the people here prefer to pour their physical and spiritual energy into the land they love. They say it's a blessing to live on such a fertile land, but it's an even greater blessing to be aware that you live on blessed land like Nepravishta.

That is why they have chosen to stay here, in the place where they were born and where they learned to cultivate the land and maintain strong relationships with one another.





Today, Nepravishta has around 900 residents, 140 of whom are children under the age of 16, making this village a place full of vitality and the lovely sounds of youth. There was a slight decline in population after the fall of communism, but most of the emigrants have returned, drawn by the philosophy the village holds about contributing to the continuation of our roots.

The village also has a functional 9-year school where children are educated, receiving knowledge just like in the city, but with a beautiful view of the Nepravishta Forest surrounding the village. And we think there is no greater gift for today's children than this!

Like in any village, the day starts very early for the hardworking people of Nepravishta. What stands out here is the way both women and men equally share the responsibilities of village life. While the children are at school, the women tend to the chickens, milk the cows, work the fields, cook, pick fruits, welcome guests, and serve them. The same applies to the men, though it's the women of Nepravishta who hold the specialty when it comes to cooking.



Life among the villagers belongs to a collective spirit of daily organization and decision-making. They hold monthly meetings to discuss issues and immediate solutions.

The people here follow the Bektashi and Islamic faiths, rigorously observing their religious rituals. March 22nd, the celebration of "Sultan Novruz," is one of the most important events of the year, bringing villagers together to celebrate and raise a toast to God and each other's health.

The most beautiful and unifying event for the village is on August 17th. The event is called "Meeting of the Generations," and it is funded by the villagers themselves to come together, enjoy each other's company, and thank the land. They also invite those who live abroad to join, celebrating with dances, polyphonic songs, children dressed in traditional clothing, and raising a toast with homemade wine and rakia. Because, after all, don't the generations come together?





A polyphonic song from the region

How my heart longs, so heavy

How my heart longs, so heavy,
For a barn in the meadow wide,
To watch the sheep come home at dusk,
And rest beneath the shade inside.

I'll walk the path with steps so light,
And drink from the stream by hazel trees,
To ease my longing in the moon's soft glow,
And feel the dew kiss my knees
I'll lead the flock into their fold,
And one by one, tend to their needs,
Filling buckets with creamy foam,
Foam from the sheep, rich as it feeds.

With the shepherds, I'll sing and smile,
My voice will curl in melodies sweet,
To wear my cloak without the sleeves,
And load the donkey with bells to greet.

Oh, how my heart aches, so full,
For a barn, for a shepherd's life,
For the girls who tend the flock with care,
Who bring the herd, the sound of life.



Architecture

Nepravishta has a long-standing architectural tradition that reflects a prosperous era in the village's history. All buildings have been constructed in harmony with the natural landscape of the area.

The main roads are all paved, and the settlements are strategically placed along the mountain ridges, amidst vineyards and fertile land. The architecture is marked by the prominent use of natural stone, sourced from the surrounding mountains. The homes are spacious, typically two or three stories high, with wooden windows, large courtyards filled with fruit trees, and arched gates.

Historically, the stone used in these structures has been gathered from the surrounding mountains. It is carved into various shapes and serves multiple functions.

The village is home to around 155 houses, most of which were built around 1880. There are also traditional "tower" homes that have been declared cultural monuments.



The dynamics of development over the years have impacted the architecture and the preservation of the old building tradition, through renovations, abandonment, or transformations. Nonetheless, the spirit of the unique architecture that has shaped this region over time is still palpable.

Within the homes, you can sense the freshness, as if the rooms are untouched by clutter. Curtains gently frame the windows, and colorful fruit bowls on top of tablecloth made through crochet adorn the tables. Children smile as they offer flowers picked from their gardens.

Perched at the highest point of Nepravishte, the newly reconstructed “Balcony” Viewpoint stands as both a scenic landmark and a testament to the village’s strong community spirit. Restored through the collective efforts and contributions of local residents, this gathering space offers breathtaking panoramic views of the surrounding valleys and mountains. More than just a viewpoint, it serves as a central hub for village life, hosting events and celebrations, including the annual “Meeting of Generations” festival on August 17th, where locals and visitors come together to honor traditions, reconnect, and celebrate Nepravishte’s enduring heritage.



When is the perfect time to visit?

-Spring and Autumn

Without a doubt, these are the two seasons when nature reveals its full glory, bursting with vibrant colors that paint the landscapes of Drino Valley and the mountain ranges that surround it.

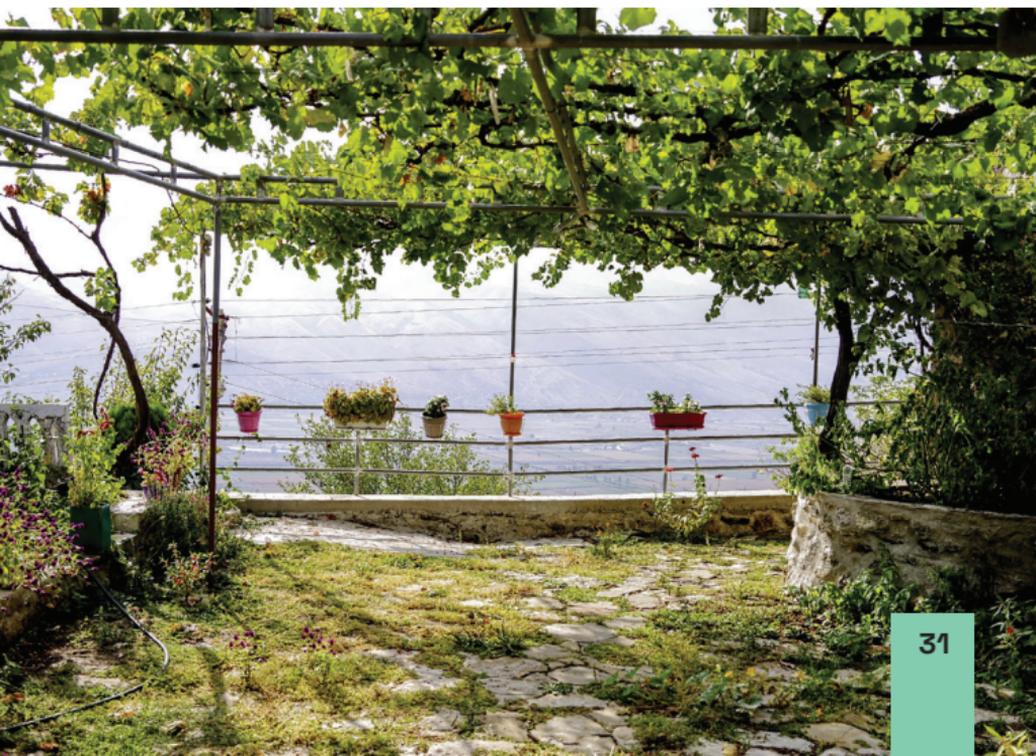
To be more specific, the most blessed months for breathtaking views and emotional color experiences are May, June, and September. These months coincide not only with nature's finest displays but also with the busy agricultural cycles of planting and harvesting that define life in the village.

The lush green hillsides in spring give way to golden fields during the harvest season, while autumn wraps the land in warm tones of amber, red, and orange—offering a visual feast that stirs the soul.



And let's not forget the cherished date of August 17th, when the village comes together for the *"Meeting of Generations" event, a truly authentic celebration of human connection. This gathering is a unique spectacle of tradition, where the younger and older generations share stories, music, and dance, strengthening bonds and honoring the past. It's an experience that brings the spirit of Nepravishta to life in a most heartfelt way.

Whether you come for the colors, the culture, or the community, these months promise a deeply memorable visit.



Culinary Delight

Beyond the simple joy of plucking fresh seasonal fruits straight from the tree, there lies a deeper experience in this village—one that blends tradition, skill, and a touch of magic. When it comes to cooking, the women of Nepravishtha have mastered a craft so rich that it's nearly impossible to find a dish they cannot perfect.

We dare you to challenge them!

But, in truth, the real challenge will be for you to keep up with the authentic, unforgettable flavors born from the purest, locally grown ingredients.

At the heart of it all stands qollopiti—a cherished tradition. Made from wheat flour (sown and harvested right in the village), yogurt, milk, olive oil, eggs, and cheese, each ingredient is carefully added in turn, coming together to form a dough that tells the story of the land itself. Baked to golden perfection in the oven, qollopiti can grace any table, any time of day, with its comforting, rustic flavor.

Yet, we must not forget the gliko and jams, the rich plum juice, the burek, and the heavenly sweets bathed in syrup.

Here, you can weave yourself into the rhythm of daily life—whether it’s stepping into the kitchen behind the house, hands kneading the dough for qollopiti, or running barefoot through the courtyards, basket in hand, collecting wild figs or mulberries.

The taste will stay with you as a cherished memory!



Adventures await in Nepravishtë



The Itinerary
of Belief



The Itinerary
of Antiquity



Engaging in
Agricultural and
Livestock Activities



Hiking

Bureto Mountain Hike

For those seeking a rewarding challenge, the hike to **Bureto Mountain** offers a stunning blend of rugged landscapes and panoramic views. This **medium-difficulty** trail covers **7.5 km** and takes approximately **4 hours and 10 minutes** to complete from Nepravishte. As you ascend, the path winds through dense forests, open meadows, and rocky ridges, providing breathtaking sights of the surrounding valleys. The summit rewards hikers with sweeping vistas stretching across the southern Albanian mountains—a perfect spot to pause and take in the beauty of untouched nature.



Revania Pastures Walk

Ideal for a relaxing nature escape, the **Revania Pastures** hike is a gentle and scenic route, perfect for all skill levels. Covering just **2.5 km** from Nepravishite, this **easy 40-minute** trek leads through rolling hills and traditional grazing lands, offering a glimpse into the village's pastoral life. Along the way, you'll be surrounded by the tranquil beauty of wildflowers, ancient oak trees, and the occasional sighting of shepherds tending to their flocks. The pastures are a peaceful retreat, making them an excellent choice for families or those looking to unwind in nature.



Instead of an ending

Will Nepravishta remain at its core, just as it was when Lord Byron stayed for ten days, as the village gracefully grows older with each passing day?

Are the colors of nature truly as vivid as the products it brings forth, reflecting the richness of the land?

And are the people here the true essence of a village where the only sounds are the work of the earth and the songs of birds?

The answer, without a doubt, is yes.
But to truly understand, you must come and experience it for yourself.



Grab this postcard, travel to Nepravishtë,
And invite your friend to join you there!

This space is for writing

This side is for address





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