

Deçan/Deçane

Tourism Attractions	Type	Name	Contact person	Contact information	Information Provider	Documented Yes / No
Tangible	Buildings	Visoki Deçani Monastery (Deçan/Deçane, 14th century)	PHM	info@phm-west.org	PCDK	Yes
		Osdautaj's Tower (Isnqi/Istiniç village, 19th century)	PHM	info@phm-west.org	PCDK	Yes
		Kukleci's Tower (Isnqi/Istiniç village, 17-19th century)	PHM	info@phm-west.org	PCDK	Yes
		Tahir Sadriaj's water mill (Isnqi/ Istiniç village, 19th century)	PHM	info@phm-west.org	PCDK	Yes
		Shabanaj's water mill (Deçan/Deçane, 19th century)	PHM	info@phm-west.org	PCDK	Yes
		Demukaj's Tower (Deçan/Deçane, 19th century)	PHM	info@phm-west.org	PCDK	Yes
		Mushkolaj's Tower (Deçan/Deçane, 18th century)	PHM	info@phm-west.org	PCDK	Yes
		Binakaj's Tower (Drenoc/ Drenovac village, 19th century)	PHM	info@phm-west.org	PCDK	Yes
		Mazrekaj's Tower	PHM	info@phm-west.org	PCDK	Yes
		(Drenoc/Drenovac)				

Deçan/Visoki Decani Monastery was built between 1327 and 1335 for Serbian king St Stefan Dečanski, but completed by his son king Stefan-Dušan. The cathedral, dedicated to Christ Pantocrator, is the largest medieval church in the Balkans and contains the largest amount of preserved Byzantine fresco painting. Construction of the church was entrusted to builders from the Adriatic coast, led by Franciscan monk Vitus of Kotor. The church is a basilica with 5 aisles, a dome constructed on a rectangular base and a narthex with 3 aisles. The cathedral of Deçan/Dečane, in general appearance, seems to be built in the mature Romanesque style found in cities of the Adriatic region, but a number of shapes and structural solutions are in the distinctive Gothic style. Uniquely, the building is a synthesis of Byzantine and western medieval tradition. There are numerous icons and other small objects, a large number of books, ornaments and church furniture. The 16th century icons are the work of Longin, a priest and a famous painter of the time. The monastery also includes Leontije's guest house, a two-storey house for particularly important guests of the monastery, built in 1748. In 2004 Deçan/Dečane monastery was placed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in Danger.

The Osdautaj family's tower is part of a complex of old towers in Isniq/Istinić village. Of the three towers surviving on plain, this is the only one which is three-storeys high. It was constructed by local builders in the second half of the 19th century. The most characteristic feature of this building is the third floor, where the men's chamber is located. The preserved original features of the men's chamber/guest room are the fireplace, cupboard, ceiling, shelves, 'trapazan' and door. The ceiling is made of *shiklla*, wood carved into a special profile.

A stone veranda extends around three sides of the building. Ornamentation in the form of rosettes is a rare stone decoration found on the building's facades. There are numerous small vaulted windows on the top floor, where the men's chamber is situated. There are two entrances: one leading directly to the men's chamber/guest room, while the other leads to the floors where the family lived. The ground floor has a separate entrance, without any connection to the upper floors.

The Kukleci tower is a two-storey tower belonging to the Kukleci family, located in the attractive historic area of Isniq/Istinić village. The building is among the older type of tower used for residential purposes, and was probably constructed during the final decades of the 18th century. Its distinguishing feature is a veranda (wooden gallery) projecting from the walls. As the size of the family increased in the 19th century, an additional storey was added to the tower, which was used only for accommodation. The tower was recently in use as a house by the two brothers of the Kukleci family.

The Tahir Sadriaj mill is a water mill located near the main road which leads to Isniq/Isnik village. The mill is sometimes called by the name of the Berisha family, the current owner being Rrustem Berisha. It is a single-story structure, technically and architecturally very similar to the ancient tower houses of the region. It was built in the late 19th century and is still in use.

Shabanaj's mill is one of the traditional buildings constructed by local masters in the centre of Deçan/Dečane. The mill belongs to the Shabanaj family. It was a very well-known public mill, used not only by the citizens of Deçan/Dečane but also by the inhabitants of neighbouring villages. The mill was built in the 19th century, and is architecturally similar to the tower houses. Its base is rectangular, and the roof is covered with traditional ceramic tiles. Two circular grindstones have been preserved from the mill's working mechanism. The mill was rebuilt in 2005 and is now used for temporary exhibitions, mainly of handicraft products made by the region's women.

Demukaj's tower is a fortified house belonging to the Demukaj family, located in the historic area of Dečan/Dečane. It was built by local builders with a long tradition in this type of construction, in the second half of the 19th century. The construction is of particular importance because it involves the veranda (stone gallery) variant extending round the corner, forming two sides of the building's facades. This tower and the whole historic area of Dečan/Dečane were damaged in 1998, and only the bearing walls of the tower survived. Reconstruction work on it started in 2001, but the works in the interior have not yet been completed.

The tower has two storeys. A special feature of the site is an annex built on the side facing the main road. There are two entrances, one leading to the floor where the men's chamber/guest room is located, and the other leading to the floors where the family lives. The ground floor has a separate entrance and lacks any connection with the other floors.

Mushkolaj's tower, in Old Dečan/Dečane, was built in the late 18th century. It has been state-owned since the end of the 20th century. It was the financial and social position of the owner which determined number of storeys, architectural and functional design and interior decoration, but another factor was sometimes the number of family members who would be living in the building. The higher the tower, the more protective and safer it was. The men's chamber/guest room is on the upper storey. This is considered to be the finest part of the tower, and special attention was given to the interior features: a small fireplace for heating and for making hot drinks, a drawer for small items of crockery, and rugs covering parts of the floor. The ceiling is wooden, made of *shiklla*. There is a chain for suspending a pot over the fireplace, specially shaped shelves, drawers, cupboard, a 'trapazan' and a wooden door. One staircase leads to the first floor of the tower, used by the guests; the internal stairs were used by the members of the family. The *divanhane* is an area in front of the men's chamber. It has a large number of windows, mainly located in the upper part of its walls. A wooden veranda is on the front facade. A bed with pillows and a shelf were sometimes in place for guests.

The room with a fireplace had particular importance, and was baking bread and for cooking. The windows of this room are larger than the ones in the men's chamber/guest room, and open onto the yard. In the corner of this room is the *magje* (a store place for flour or other food products) used for preparing bread. A *çerep* (pan) was usually located near the fireplace as well.

The bedrooms are situated in a row. They are quite small, just big enough for a bed and a chest of wardrobe. There are not usually any other rooms in homes of this kind, unless there is a cellar. Any space on the ground floor was usually used as a shelter for animals and a food store.

Mazrekaj's tower is a two-storey tower in a remote area, in the village of Drenoc/Drenovac. It was constructed by local master builders in the 19th century and has been used as a family home. It is built of stone and wood, and its roof is covered with traditional ceramic tiles. The ground floor of the tower was mainly used as a stable. On the first floor was a room with a fireplace and a bedroom. This floor was mainly used by the female members of the family. The men's chamber is the main guest room in the house. It is located on the upper floor. It is considered the most beautiful part of the house, with some original features having been preserved: a fireplace, cupboards, the ceiling, shelves, a 'trapazan' and a carved wooden door. The *divanhane* is the area in front of the men's chamber. It has a large number of windows, mainly located in the upper part of its walls. There is a wooden veranda on the front facade. The tower was restored in 2002.

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