

Gusinje

- Postoji nekoliko predanja o tome kako je Gusinje dobilo ime, neki kažu da je po gustom šumi u kojoj je podignuto, drugi da je zbog gustoginja koje se zimi nahvata, a poznata je i legenda o momku plemenita roda, koji se nastanio u gustišu blizu jezera kada mu je vodeni zmaj iz Plavskog jezera ubio sestru. Iz tog gustiša nastala je današnja varoš.



There are several folk stories concerning how Gusinje got its name: some say that it was named after the dense forest (*gust* – dense, thick) in which it was built, others say it was after the thick hoar frost (*inje* – hoar frost) which covers the area in winter, and there is also a famous legend about a young nobleman who settled in the dense undergrowth near the

- Naseljeno još od praistorije, Gusinje se spominje već u 14. vijeku kao karavanska stanica, mjesto za odmor putnika i konja, na putu od Dubrovnika, Kotora i Skadra, za Peć i Carigrad. Uvijek na granici, na mjestu gdje su se ukrštali putevi i susretale različite kulture, vjere i narodi, Gusinje se brzo razvijalo, postavši poznati trgovački i zanatski centar. Po dolasku Šaban-age u 17. vijeku, kog je skadarski vezir postavio za svog muselima – namjesnika, Gusinje dobija na značaju i postaje centar Gornjopolimske nahije, preuzevši upravnu funkciju od Plava. Tada je Gusinje bilo veće nego danas. Sačuvan je dokument iz 1852. godine u kome se Gusinje opisuje kao velika kasaba - varoš, sa 1500 kuća, pet džamija, osam vjerskih škola i jednom ruždijom – gimnazijom. U Gusinju je tada bilo i 350 dućana, 7 hanova i 27 kafedžinica, a da su

lake when a dragon from Lake Plav killed his sister. The present day town was formed from this undergrowth.

Inhabited since prehistoric times, Gusinje was mentioned in the 14th century as a caravan station, a place where travellers and horses could get some rest on the road leading from Dubrovnik, Kotor and Skadar to Peć and Istanbul. Always on the frontier, on the spot where roads crossed and various cultures, religions and nations encountered, Gusinje developed rapidly and became a well-known centre of commerce and crafts. Upon the arrival of Šaban-Aga in the 17th century, who was appointed deputy by the Vizier of Skadar, Gusinje gained in importance and became the centre of the Upper Polimlje district taking over the administrative functions

- Varoš je više puta rušena i obnavljana. Prilikom poslednje obnove početkom 16. vijeka Gusinje je planski građeno. I danas ga mnogi nazivaju malo urbanističko čudo. Čitav grad je koncentrisan oko jedne



Gusinjani poznati i vješti trgovci potvrdio je i francuski konzul u Skadru, prilikom posjete ovom kraju 1859. godine.

of Plav. Then Gusinje was a larger town than it is today. A document from 1852 has been preserved in which Gusinje was described as a large provincial town with 1,500 houses, five mosques, eight religious schools and a *ruždija* (gymnasium school). Then there were also 350 shops, 7 inns and 27 coffee shops in Gusinje. Besides that, the fact that the people of Gusinje were well-known and skilful merchants was also confirmed by the French consul in Skadar, during his visit to this region in 1859.

This little town has been demolished and rebuilt several times. During the last restoration at the beginning of the 16th century, Gusinje was built in a planned manner. Even today many people call it a little urbanistic miracle. The entire town is concentrated around one semicircular street with a central square surrounded by numerous



polukružne ulice sa centralnim trgom oko kog se nalaze brojni dućani, kafedžinice i hanovi. Od centra se zrakasto širi devet

shops, coffee shops and inns. Nine streets lead radially from the centre and their ends are connected by a circular street. Many Oriental elements in the appearance of the houses and streets have been preserved. Even today small shops and narrow cobbled streets with the houses with small windows and porches are located here.

Traditional house of Gusinje was built as a two-storey structure. The stone-built ground floor was used as a cattle stall or a grain storehouse, whereas the upper floor, on which people lived was made of wood, with

ulica čije krajeve povezuje jedna kružna ulica. Sačuvano je dosta orijentalnih elemenata u izgledu kuća i ulica. I danas su tu mali dućani, uski kaldrinski sokaci sa kućama malih prozora i doksata.

- Tradicionalna gusinjska kuća pravljena je na dva sprata – boja. Kameno prizemlje je služilo kao izba za stoku ili magaza za čuvanje žitarica, dok se gornji sprat, u kom se stanovalo, pravio od drveta, sa “čoškrom” – natkrivenom drvenom terasom. Kuće su bile lijepo uređene i bogato opremljene. Imale su hamam (kupatiilo), abdesnicu

a “corner” – a covered wooden terrace. Houses were beautifully decorated and richly furnished. They had a *hamam* (bath house), *abdesnica* (a wooden washbasin), brick stove, a closet for bedding, built-in cupboards, shelves and sofas (raised sitting platforms) decorated with carvings. The arch-shaped barriers separated the entrance section from the rest of the room and these served as a curtain – the spot which female servants did not cross when serving food and drink to the guests.



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(drveni lavabo za umivanje), zidanu peć, dolap za posteljenu, ugrađene ormane, rafove i mindere (uzdignuto postolje za sjedjenje) ukrašene rezbarijom. Pregrade u obliku lukova odvajale su ulazni dio sobe od ostalog dijela, a služile su kao zavjesa-granica koju ženska posluga nije prelazila pri posluživanju gostiju.



- Gusinje je poznato po starim kamenim kulama, tom jedinstvenom primjeru odbrambeno – stambene arhitekture karakteristične za plavsko-gusinjski kraj. Kvadratne osnove, na dva ili tri sprata, kule su bile zaštićene debelim kamenim zidovima. Neke su imale poslednji sprat sagrađen od drveta, sa prozorima na sve četiri strane, koji je služio kao vidikovac ili stražarnica. Kule su građene u doba Osmanske vladavine i često su na fasadi imale isklesan citat iz Kurana na arapskom jeziku ili dovu kojom se dom štiti od zlih sila i uroka. Na jednoj od starih gusinjskih kula iznad vrata je uklesana puška čija cijev je okrenuta prema dolje kao simbol mira, sigurnosti, ali i spremnosti za odbranu u slučaju napada.

Gusinje is well-known for its old stone towers, a unique example of defensive and residential architecture, characteristic of the region of Plav and Gusinje. Built with a rectangular base and two or three storeys, the towers were protected by thick stone walls. Some of them had their top floor built of wood, with windows on all four sides which served as a vantage point or a watchtower. The towers were built in the time of Ottoman rule and often on the façade they had an engraved quotation from the Qur'an in Arabic or a dova (prayer) which protected the home from evil spirits and bad spells. On one of Gusinje's old towers above the door an engraving of a rifle with the barrel pointing down as a symbol of peace and security, as well as readiness for defence in case of attack has been carved.

