

Spirit of Bosnia / Duh Bosne

An International, Interdisciplinary, Bilingual, Online Journal
Međunarodni, interdisciplinarni, dvojezični, online časopis

Bobovac

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An infographic guide to Bobovac, the nest of kings of Bosnia [...]

AN INFOGRAPHIC GUIDE TO BOBOVAC

THE NEST OF THE KINGS OF BOSNIA

written and illustrated by Emir Isovic



The northern settlement

Brač, a three-story stone watchtower built on the Vis elevation. It was used to control approaches to the town from the north. Its walls were as thick as up to 4 metres at the bottom.

The northern towngate had a huge stone watchtower above it. Its walls were 2 metres thick.

The northern ditch was 3 metres wide and 2 metres deep. A wooden drawbridge led the way over it to the towngate.

A detached watchtower

The inner settlement

Outbuilding with a wooden stable

Franciscan palace

The foundation of a great church. Its construction was never finished.

The Royal mausoleum is holding the tombs of Bosnian kings Ostoja, Ostojić, Tvrtko I, Tvrtko II, and the queen Dorothea and some other dynasty members. The tomb raiders plundered the mausoleum long before its discovery by the archaeologists who still managed to find some valuable items.

The round tower was the central tower used to control both upper and lower parts of the town.

The main street stretched from one end of the town to the other. It was about one metre wide and at some parts carved into the rocks.

THE CLIFFS AND CITY WALLS

The royal town of Bobovac was the capital city of the medieval Bosnian Kingdom. Built on steep, rocky cliffs 700 metres above the sea level, the town had a perfect defensive position for its time. Its high cliffs and walls made it really impregnable. The deep canyons of the Mijakovska River from the east and Bukavica River from the west kept the town secure from both sides. The confluence of these two rivers is just at the southern tip of the town, thus making the north side the only access to the town. Therefore, the defenders had built not one but four defensive towers, high curtain walls and a three-metre-wide ditch there.

Before Bobovac, the palace of Bosnian rulers was located in Mošćina, in Visoko Valley, some 20 kilometres south from here. However, as the attacks of the enemy armies increased, Bosnian ruler **Stjepan II Kotromanić** moved his court to Bobovac around 1300 a.d. where it was much easier to defend.

Since then until the fall of Bosnian Kingdom in 1463, Bobovac had been the capital of the Bosnian state. It held the royal court with various offices, the state treasury and archives, the royal throne, the crown and all the other elements of a capital city. After the Ottoman conquest in 1463, the town lost its strategic importance and was pulled down and abandoned.

WALLS AND TREASURE

Bobovac was surrounded by more than **1,100 metres** of curtain walls and it had **11 stone towers**. In the river canyon south the town, the defenders had set up a chain of **check points**. Also a huge mass of water was kept in a **dam** to be released upon an advancing enemy army.

The wooden settlements north, south and within the town contained up to **200 wooden houses**. There were 3 cisterns, a number of watermills down on the river, one manual wheat mill inside the upper palace, at least 3 blacksmith shops, stables, kitchens, a dungeon etc. Also, farmers, armors, shield makers, masons, carvers, seal makers, bakers, woodcarvers and potters lived and worked in the Royal Town.

The state treasury of Bobovac kept the royal crown, state archives and all the wealth of Bosnian Kingdom. When the Ottomans entered the city on 22 May 1463, they captured a huge amount of gold and silver and **more than a million ducats**.

The Main Tower was the oldest and most dominating object of the town. It had three stories and held a cistern. The Bosnian flag fluttering proudly on top of it must have been a great sight.

The upper palace had the private royal chambers, a small courtyard and a small attached watchtower.

The additional palace (annex) held the rooms where the official seal maker and royal engraver worked.

The Lower Palace of the Royal Court was a huge four-story building. It contained the main hall with the royal throne, the state archives and the treasury where the royal crown was kept. According to the evidence, this was the most decorated palace in the town. The inner walls were covered with expensive tapestry. The floral and animal figures were carved onto the walls and the columns were painted in golden colour. Stained glass in various colours was used for the windows and beautifully decorated porcelain heating stoves were found in almost every room.



The Bosnian Royal Crown
(A reconstruction based on archaeological evidence)

The main courtyard had a blacksmith shop and a rooked cistern. A staircase carved into the cliff led to this courtyard.

The Lower Palace Portal

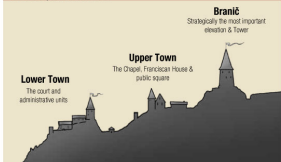


COURTIERS

Many of the courtiers lived and worked at the Royal Court. These were the court duke, court magistrate (judge), chamberlain, treasurer, knights, clerks, artists, carvers, maidens, cooks, horsekeepers, coin keepers and many other servants.

a court duke

BOBOVAC, CROSS SECTION



HOW TO GET THERE?

You can travel to Bobovac via Kakani and Kraljeva Sutjeska or via Breza and Vares. Take the easy scenic route which is asphalted, except some ten kilometres of macadam. You will need a car to get there since no public transportation is available.



WHERE TO STAY?

We cordially recommend you the **Berislav Country Household**. Located just one kilometre away from the Royal Town in a magnificent natural environment and providing a genuine Bosnian cuisine, your vacation there will be an unforgettable one. For information call +387 62 259 188 or visit www.cavaribosnian.hr



Written and published by Emir Isovic, Sarajevo 2013. Printed in 500 copies. Literature used: Dr. Enver Imamović: Korijeni Bosne i Bosanije, Sarajevo 1995. Pavao Anđić: Bobovac i Kraljeva Sutjeska, Sarajevo 1973. Anđić: Kraljeva Sutjeska, Kraljeva Sutjeska, Sarajevo 2009. © Emir Isovic 2013. All rights reserved. Any reproduction, partially or in full, print or online publishing without the author's written permission is forbidden. You can order a signed copy of this poster on www.bosniankingdom.com. Distributed by Association **Čuvari Bosanske Kune - Bobovac**, Vares. This is a product of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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