

## International Hands-on Workshops for Architectural and Site Conservation



# News

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **All Aboard for Albania: Volunteers Needed for Restoration Efforts in World Heritage City of Gjirokastra**

**Boulder, Colorado USA and Gjirokastra, Albania, May 28, 2008** – Auron Tare travels the world seeking support for conservation projects in Albania. He is now inviting people to come to Albania and help him restore one of the distinctive Ottoman kullë houses that make up the World Heritage Site of Gjirokastra. He and Heritage Conservation Network are recruiting volunteers for a two-week hands-on building conservation workshop that runs from September 28 to October 11, 2008.

Gjirokastra, known both as the City of Stone and the Town of a Thousand Steps, is one of the best preserved Ottoman cities in the world. Its architecture is characterized by a type of tower house, the Turkish 'kullë', which developed in the 17th century and was utilized for several hundred years. The houses feature a tall basement, a first floor for the cold season, and a second floor for the warm season; interiors are often richly decorated with painted floral patterns. The city's many slate roofs were immortalized in Ismail Kadare's *Chronicle in Stone*, a book about the author's childhood in Gjirokastra during WWII. Any one interested in historic architecture or exploring an ancient culture is encouraged to participate in this restoration effort. Albanian conservators will teach and guide participants as they work; no experience is necessary.

As with most volunteer vacation initiatives, participants are asked to cover their costs and contribute to ongoing conservation efforts. The cost of the workshop is US\$950 for one week and US\$1,800 for two weeks, which covers lodging, breakfast and lunch, insurance, workshop materials, instruction and fieldtrips to historic sites outside the city. Transportation to the workshop is not included. There is a discount of \$50 per week for registrations received by June 15, 2008. A few partial, need-based scholarships are available for participants from Albania and surrounding countries.

To learn more or register online, go to [www.heritageconservation.net/ws-albania.htm](http://www.heritageconservation.net/ws-albania.htm).

Heritage Conservation Network is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of architectural heritage around the world. HCN's workshops give volunteers the opportunity to give something back by helping to protect valuable cultural treasures. To learn more about HCN's international workshops, visit HCN's website [www.heritageconservation.net](http://www.heritageconservation.net).

####

Contact:  
Judith Broeker  
Heritage Conservation Network  
1557 North Street, Boulder, CO 80304 USA  
Phone/Fax: +1 303 444 0128  
[jbroeker@heritageconservation.net](mailto:jbroeker@heritageconservation.net)  
[www.heritageconservation.net](http://www.heritageconservation.net)