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Management
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Regret*



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A place where everyone finds what is looking for.

From the pure, white snow of the mountains to the red fields of spring poppies, Albania's landscape is ever changing with the seasons, offering visitors a warm summer beach holiday or a challenging mountain trek during the fall. Although small, Albania offers a diverse range of nature to explore. There are many wonderful beaches, spectacular mountains, river valleys, large canyons, forests rich with flora and fauna, large and small lakes and many other surprises for visitors.



The culture and history are also impressive and have much to offer to tourists. Butrint, located in the south of Albania, is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Program and is appraised as one of the most wondrous places on earth, full mythology and mystic atmosphere. The site lies in the center of a Mediterranean "jungle" and was built by in an ancient Trojan style. Two other Al-

banian cities are on the UNESCO World Heritage List, prominent for their specific architectural style: Berat and Gjirokastra. Albania is proud to host a wide range of archaeological sites, Illyrian castles, medieval fortification, Byzantine churches and monasteries of the post-Byzantine period. Albania's living connection to its rich cultural heritage is also complimented by its commitment to keep in pace with a highly vibrant and contemporary life, echoing its spirituality and presence in the European cultural environment. On the most important assets of the country is its coastline, with a length of 450 km including lagoons and its two Adriatic and Ionian Seas. Albania is a land to be loved. In this small Mediterranean country, virgin nature and cultural mysteries come together to create a unique sense of place. In Albania, visitors are welcomed as guests as part of the country's rich cultural traditions and heritage.



WHY VISIT ALBANIA?



GENERAL DATA



Area:
28,748km²



Capital city:
Tirana



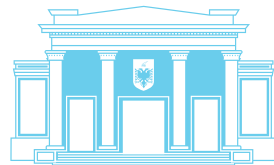
Population:
2,880,177 inhabitants



Language:
Albanian



Currency:
ALL



Political system:
**Parliamentary
Democracy**



Flag:
**Black double-head-
ed eagle on red
background**



International
Area Code:
00355



Natural resources:
Petroleum, natural gas,
coal, bauxite, chromite,
copper, iron ore, nickel,
salt, timber,
hydropower.



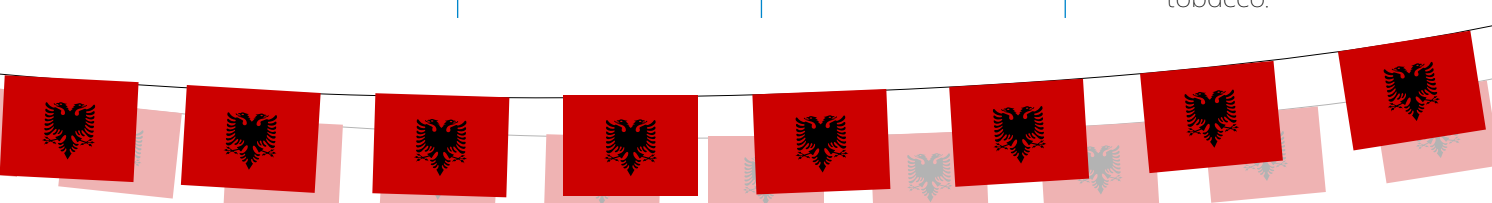
Agriculture products:
Wheat, corn, potatoes,
vegetables, fruits, sug-
ar beets, grapes; meat,
dairy products.



Industries:
Food processing,
textiles and clothing;
lumber, oil, cement,
chemicals, mining, ba-
sic metals, hydropower.



Exports
commodities:
textiles and footwear;
asphalt, metals and
metallic ores, crude
oil; vegetables, fruits,
tobacco.



NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

January 1 & 2 New Year	March 14 Summer Day	March 22 Nevruz Day	May 1 International Worker's Day	October 19 Mother Teresa Beatification Day
November 28 Independence Day	November 29 Liberation Day	December 8 National Youth Day	December 25 Christmas	

Religious feasts (according to the respective calendar) are also national holidays:

CATHOLIC EASTER

ORTHODOX EASTER

THE DAY OF EID AL FITR (EID FITTER)

EID AL ADHA

ABOUT ALBANIA

With its favorable climate, that offers opportunities for many tourism activities, the diversified landscape, where are combined sandy and shallow beaches of Adriatic Sea with small and deep beaches of Ionian Sea, large and small Lakes, fields and river valleys, high snowy mountains, with an ancient history, rich with archaeological parks, castles, medieval monuments, cities with typical architecture, Albania is a tourist destination to be visited! Located on the Balkan Peninsula in southeastern Europe, Albania is located near to the main European markets and can be visited easily by air, land and sea. Albania lies in the subtropical belt and is included also in the Mediterranean climate, with relatively short and mild winter and hot and dry summer. The climate of Albania varies a lot from one region to another with big contrasts in terms of temperature, rainfalls, solar lighting,

air humidity, etc. The annual rainfall is averagely 1,430mm per year, decreasing from west to the east. It is believed that the prehistoric flow of Albanians is from a very ancient IndoEuropean tribe, which the Greek historian Herodotus described as the "Pelasgians". They are considered as direct descendants of an ancient Illyrian tribe called "Albans", who settled in today's Albania. Others believe that Albanians and Illyrians are direct descendants of the Pelasgians, who lived thousands of years before Christ. Through this guide we aim to provide you practical information on our country, which will somehow come to your help during your travel and stay in Albania. This brochure contains information about the geographic position, population, history, climate, national parks, museums, coastline, forests, language, religion, most attractive tourist sites, information on border crossings points, etc. "The sun in Albania never sets and Albania will never fade as a tourist attraction."





UNESCO



sites Albania has three main sites that are part of UNESCO world heritage, which are also among the most visited places by foreign tourists.

RELIEF & CLIMATE

Albania has an area of **28.748** km² and is distinguished for its diverse and magnificent terrain. A great part of the territory consists of mountains and hills, and 1/3 of the territory consists of lowlands that lie mainly in the western part of the country along the Adriatic coastline. The highest peak of the country is Korab Mountain, located in the area of Dibër.

The mountain is **2.751 m** above sea level

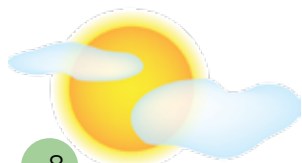
This impressive relief, with many fractures and microforms, is rich in hydric resources, forests and flora and fauna. Albanian nature offers many opportunities for various outdoor tourist activities. A visitor can experience the freshness of the mountain climate and the Mediterranean warmth of the coast all within a short time frame.

One of the biggest natural pleasures of Albania is the large amount of sunshine hours. Albania is one of the countries with the highest number of sunshine hours in Europe.

The Albanian coastline is **450 km** long

(including numerous lagoons in the Adriatic sea) and offers great potential for tourism. The mountainous relief can offer spectacular landscapes and different tourist activities. The snow layers covering mountains lasts for several months, thus providing opportunities for winter sports fans. The relief of Albania is quite rich in rivers and lakes, which are very important and attractive spots for tourism and hosting various activities. The climatic conditions in Albania are suitable for guaranteeing a relatively long summer season of 5 months, which can be used for beach tourism. Summer is hot and dry and winter is mild and rainy.

The average temperature in the coast is **17.5°C** and in the mountains it reaches **7.5°C**. The diversity of relief and climate offers endless opportunities for tourists to enjoy.



BUTRINT

It lies south of Albania, 18 kilometres from the coastal city of Saranda having a pretty good position in front of the Greek island of Corfu. Part of UNESCO since 1992, the city has the status of an Archaeological Park representing at the same time a National Park, which is also part of the RAMSAR Convention. Butrint is without any doubt, the most important archaeological site of Albania and one of the most visited touristic spots in the country.

Tourists can visit a variety of objects, among which we can mention the temple of Asclepius (*the God of Health, of the century II B.C.*), the theatre with 1,500 seats that dates back from century III B.C., the font with the mosaics (a Paleochristian monument), nympheus, bathrooms, the gate of the lake, the gate of the lion, the Venetian castle of Ali Pasha, etc.



GJIROKA STRA

The city of Gjirokastra with its specific architecture, is part of UNESCO since 2005. It is built in the Eastern part The Archaeological Park of Butrint; (bottom) Gjirokastra Discover Albania 43 of the Wide Mountain. Because of its architecture, Gjirokastra is also known as "the Stone City" or "city of a thousands stairs". The most important attractions in Gjirokastra are the high stone houses, which look like small castles and they seem to be architectonic monumental complexes. The main attraction is the castle of the city, also known as the castle of Argyro. It was after this name that the city was named **"Argjirokastro"** in 1336. In the premises of the castle is also found the Museum of Guns; in which are exposed guns dating from the Paleolithic period until World War II. The castle of Gjirokastra is the largest one in the entire country. Among other things, it serves as a place for organizing the National Folk Festival, which takes place usually once every four years. Gjirokastra is the birthplace of the former communist dictator of Albania, Enver Hoxha. His house, today is the Ethnographic Museum of Gjirokastra. The Albanian contemporary writer and sometimes candidate for the Nobel Prize in literature, Ismail Kadare, was also born in Gjirokastra. His house is also found in this city. The main attraction is the castle of the city, also known as the castle of Argyro. It was after this name that the city was named **"Argjirokastro"** in 1336. The castle of Gjirokastra is the largest one in the entire country Gjirokastra Old Bazaar 44 Discover Albania.



BERAT

The city of Berat, part of the elite of UNESCO world heritage since 2006, is located at a distance of 120 kilometres far from Tirana. It is one of the oldest cities of Albania, nearly 2415 years old. Berat is one of the most prominent examples of the traditional architecture in the country, as well as a treasure of our national history and culture. The major tourist attractions are the characteristic neighbourhoods of Mangalem, Gorica and Kala, where you can see the facades of the houses with numerous windows placed one above the other. For this reason, Berat is also known as "the City of thousand Windows". In the city is found a complex of Byzantine and post-Byzantine churches, the museum of Onufri paintings (the famous Albanian iconography), as well as monuments from the Ottoman period. Despite of its age, the Castle of Berat continues to be inhabited even today.

The Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests encompasses the beech forests of Gashi in Valbonë Valley National Park and Rajcë in Shebenik-Jabllanicë National Park. They form an integral section of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians because for their outstanding naturalistic value and the diverse biodiversity.

The Shebenik-Jabllanicë National Park is a national park in eastern Albania adjacent to the border with North Macedonia. It's a home to the Balkan Lynx, a rare and endangered mountain cat. During Communism, entrance to the park was forbidden resulting in today's untouched and absolutely gorgeous forests of Rrajca, among others. The entire park hosts 32% of the entire nation's flora and is increasingly popular among hikers and nature lovers. Besides the above mentioned places, an important

part of the oral world heritage of mankind (of UNESCO) is also the Albanian iso-polyphony. This old way of singing without musical instruments (with the exception of flute) in the area of Pilur (a mountainous village in the area of Himara), is widespread in the regions of Southern Albania, such as Tepelena, Gjirokastra, Vlora and culminating in Himara in the Ionian coast.





NATURAL NATIONAL PARKS

THETH

The "National Park of Theth" lies into the center of the Albanians Alps, between the block "Bjeshket te Nëmuna" on the west, and the block of Jezerca on the east. Thethi is a tourist – alpinist region and it is the most important one north of the country. It is only 70 km away from the city of Shkodra. It is a part of the commune Shalë within the region of Dukagjin. The park is surrounded from all four angles with pitons (rocky) of the two blocks above, which ascend down towards the valley and create an amazing view. Some of the most astonishing parts of this national park are the following: The peak of Radoines, Arapit, Paplukës, Alisë etc. Hanging 750–800 meters below within the valley stretches the pictorial village of Theth.

DIVJAKA PINE

The National Park "Divjaka Pine". Within this park is the Karavasta lagoon, the largest lagoon in Albania and one of the largest in the Mediterranean Sea. This lagoon has been part of the park since 1995 and is protected under the RAMSAR convention for its international importance. The park is covered by dense flora.

LLOGARA

Llogara National Park is located 40 km south of the city of Vlora. This park is distinguished for its merging of mountain and sea air. The park is covered with a density of coniferous trees and is also considered to be a climatic resort. At this park you can also see the "flag where coastal soft pines dominate. The park offers wonderful opportunities for ecotourism such as observing birds, fishing in the lagoon, swimming, sunbathing, etc. An interesting fact about this location is that this is the westernmost point in Europe, where "curly pelicans" or the Dalmatian pelican nests. The reason for this name is that pine branches are grown only on one side of the tree. The park is also known for its Fauna., where you can find 105 different bird species. The park is also an ideal place to practice air sports, due to the favorable direction of the wind.



BUTRINT

Butrint National Park covers an area of 2.500 ha. The sub-tropical climate of this park attracts many Albanian and foreign tourists. The fauna and flora of this region are very diverse. We can mention the mussel which is cultivated in Lake Butrint, famous for its nutritional value. The ancient city of Butrint, protected by UNESCO, is the "capital" of this park. In the amphitheater of Butrint, cultural and artistic activities are held in a national and international level.

KARABURUN-SAZAN NATIONAL MARINE PARK

Karaburun - Sazan National Marine Park is located along the Karaburun Peninsula and Sazan Island, at a distance of 1 sea mile (1852 m) from the coastline. It is the only national marine park in Albania and has been identified by local and foreign experts, as an area with great values in the context of natural heritage, archaeology and history.

SHEBENIK - JABLLANICE

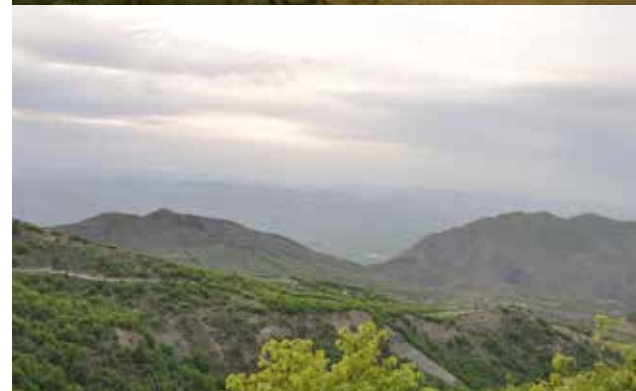
Shebenik - Jabllanice National Park is located in the district of Librazhd. The Park is an important ground for large mammals protected by the Conventions, thus gaining value and importance in the Balkan region. There are limited, but rich habitats here. The beauty of the valley of Rajce between the slopes of Shebenik and Jablanica, the combination of soft soils with steep ones, the existence of the great rocky masses, many cold streams, etc. raise the eco-touristic values of the area.

DRENOVA FIR

National Park "Drenova Fir" has an area of 1.380 ha and is located in the Morava Mountains in Korca. The Geographical height of this park attracts visitors in the winter and especially in the summer. A characteristic of this park are numerous sources of cold water, which local residents have 'baptized' with different names, such as "Source of Old Lady", "The source of Pilika", "Source of St. George", etc. The flora is represented by fir massifs, but also Fagus and Black Pine (Pinus nigra Arn) and pine formations. You can also visit the geo- monument "The Stone of Capi".

ZALL GJOCAJ

The National Park "Zall Gjoçaj" is another wonderful park, 40 km northeast of the town of Burrel. It is very beautiful and rich in resources and streams. It is a scenic area, suited for those who want to get away from the noise and prefer quietness. Regarding the fauna, one can find the brown bear, wolf, wild rabbit, squirrel, etc. here. The National Park "Valbona" park is considered one of the natural wonders of Albania. It is one of the biggest national parks of the country, with an area of 8.000 hectares. It is located 30 km away from the town of Bajram Curri. It offers a wonderful landscape between the peaks of the Alps and park makes it an attractive spot for tourists and researchers. You can practice mountain climbing on the slopes of the valley, go sports fishing (marble trout is found in the river waters), horse riding, trekking etc





PRESPA

National Park of Prespa. The largest park in Albania, with a surface of 27.750 ha includes two Prespa lakes. The park crosses the territory of three different countries, Albania, Macedonia and Greece. This park is very rich in cultural, architectural, archaeological and natural values. The ruins of Trajan castle are found here as well as a number of hermit and post Byzantine churches decorated with beautiful frescoes. One such church is St. Mary, which is located on a small worshiped man. Another activity organized here is mountain climbing and the foot of this park is a very suitable area for camping. island near the village of Liqenas Maligrad in "Big Prespa". The cave of Tren is another pleasant and rare site to visit at this park with its paintings from the Neolithic Tomorri Mountain Qafshtama Nature and Adventure 23 era. Recently, a neolithic settlement and various objects that show proof of an early civilization were discovered in this lake. Prespa Lake is the habitat of many rare species of flora and fauna. The national Park area has RAMSAR status and also earns a special status by UNESCO as a "Transboundary Biosphere Reserve".

SHTAMA PASS

Shtama Pass National Park is located in the northeast, 25 km away from the town of Kruje. The park is known as a curative center, especially for the treatment of respiratory diseases. The park has an area of 20 km² and is known for pine forests. In this park, the famous water source of "Queen Mother" is located. From this source, high quality and very healthy water springs.

TOMORRI

Tomorri National Park is situated in Tomorri mountain, south of the historical city of Berat. The park has an area of 4.000 hectares. In this park lies the Tomb of Abaz Ali, half-brother of Muhammad (Tyrba e Kulmakut), 1,200 meters above sea level. Every August thousands of pilgrims from all over the Bektashi order go up to the Tyrba for a week, and gather here to celebrate their most important holiday of the year, which greatly stimulate religious tourism. The roads from the surrounding valleys leading to Mount Tomor, for many kilometers become an endless line of vehicles that have only one purpose, the pilgrimage to the sacred place.



"HOTOVA FIER" - DANGELLI

National Park "Hotova Fier" - Dangelli. This park is in the region of Frashëri, 35 km northeast of the town of Përmet. This park has an area of 1.200 hectares. It is characterised by rich flora and especially the Macedonian fir (one of the biggest parks in the Balkans, where this wood is found) Hotova Fier is a relic of the Mediterranean fruit. This park offers great opportunities for ecotourism with its residential areas and camps. Hikers and nature lovers can relax and experience an unforgettable experience here. The park is distinguished for its massive fir trees.



LURA

Lura National Park is situated in the massive forest titled "Crown of Lura". A special feature of Lura park is the 12 glacial lakes that reach it. The most beautiful lake is "The Lake of Flowers". During the summer, its surface is are 200 years old. We should mention the fact that the park constitutes the most populated area in Albania with the lynx, an endangered species. The park offers accommodation of "guesthouse" type. There are numerous opportunities for a wide range of activities such as mountain climbing, trekking, bicycle sports, speleology, sport fishing, etc. covered by white water lilies.

Beech is the most common type of tree in the forests of this area. The park offers opportunities for many outdoor activities like hiking, ecotourism, horse-riding, etc.



DAJTI DAJTI NATIONAL PARK

This park is on Dajti Mountain, 26 km east of the capital, Tirana. Dajti Park has an area of 3.300 ha. There are several categories of flora, ranging from evergreen shrubs, oaks and beech. A part of the park is also Bovilla lake. In this park visitors can go hiking, climbing, etc. At this site, one gets a magnificent view of the city which is why the area is also called the "Natural balcony of Tirana". A unique feature of this park is the ride to the top of the mountain in a cable car "Dajti Express", which lasts only a few minutes and takes you through beautiful scenery. There is also hotel accommodation available for tourists.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK OF ANTIGONEA

The Archaeological Park of Antigonea is located in the region of Gjirokastra, in the area of Lunxhëria. To get there you should take the road from Gjirokastra going through Asim Zeneli-Krinë-Tranoshisht villages. Near Saraqinisht village are found the ruins of this archaeological site, which has the status of an Archaeological Park. Antigonea is located 14 km far from Gjirokastra.

Antigonea was founded by Pyrrhus, the King of Molossoid, in 295 B.C,

and it became an important economic, social, cultural and political centre. By the end of century III and at the beginning of century II B.C., it took the form of a polis (citystate).

Pyrrhus named the city in honour of his first wife, Antigonea.

Isamber, a French historian, visited the castle on the hill of Jerma in 1880. He thought

that was the ancient city of Alexandria. In 1930, the British archaeologist Nicholas Samond recognized Pyrrhus's typical construction technique in the surrounding walls of Jerma. He proposed the identification of Jerma with the city of Epirus Hekatonpedon. During the Second World War, the Greek archaeologist Evangelis, carried out some limited archaeological excavations in this place. He had found traces of burns and he related them to the ruins of the Roman army of Emil Paul. In 1964, the Albanian archaeologist The Archaeological Park of Antigonea; (bottom right) Monastery of St. Mary in Apollonia Discover Albania 39 Dhimosten Budina started the archaeological excavations in Jerma hill, in front of the castle of Gjirokastra. After 5 years of excavations, he discovered the house of a copper-smith of the ancient city, where he found some round thin plates of bronze in the shape of small coins. All of them were stamped with the same Antigonian inscription, which in the ancient Greek meant "it belongs to the Antigoniens". The archaeologist Budina thought that these stamps, which are known since antiquity as PSEFOI and served to vote, showed clearly that he had discovered the city of Antigoniens, Antigonea. Professor Budina led up to 25 expeditions to discover Antigonea. Among the objects that can be visited by tourists are the remains of fortified walls, the ancient nymph of Acropolis, the leather workshop, the main gate of the city, Stoa or the promenade, the housing complex of columns, the mosaic, etc.



THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK OF AMANTIA

The Archaeological Park of Amantia is located in the region of Vlora. In order to get there, you have to go through VloraDrashovica-Mavrove-Kote-Vajzë route. This archaeological site had a fortified acropolis around 220 metres long. The upper rocky plateau, sloping different in its sides, forced the builders to adapt the walls, the construction technique and their direction to this site. The wall found there is 28 meters long and 8 meters high. The builders of these ancient works shaped the rock where the polygonal blocks were placed. One of the entrance gates in acropolis had the form of an arch; its dimensions are 2.2 meters long and 0.12 meters wide. The main attraction for visitors is the stadium of Amantia.



THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK OF APOLLONIA

Apollonia is one of the most important archaeological sites of the country and at the same time, one of the most visited places by the tourists. It is located 12 kilometres far from the city of Fier.

The city of Apollonia was founded at the beginning of century VII B.C by the colonies of Corinth and Corcyra.

The first records of their presence have been documented around the year 588 B.C. The city was named in honour of the God of Apollo. Among 24 cities all around the Mediterranean world that held this name in the ancient times, Apollonia of Illyria was the most important one and played a major role as a 40 Discover Albania trade mediator between the Helens and Illyrians. Apollonia was at that time a big and important city near Aaos (Vjosa) River. Its population was estimated to be 60,000 inhabitants, a record for antiquity. Apollonia preserved its grandeur even during the Roman period. The Apollonian School of Fine Arts was well-known in the ancient world. When Julius Caesar was murdered in Rome during a conspiracy in the Senate, his nephew Octavian Augustus studied philosophy in Apollonia. Visitors can visit a series of objects, among which we can mention the impressive wall of Agonotheis, the theatre of Apollonia, the promenade, the monastery of Shën Meria, etc.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK OF BYLLIS

This park is located in the region of Mallakstra, near Hekal Village. It was founded in 350 B.C. Pliny considered it as a Roman colony, while according to Stephanus Byzantinus it was founded by Neoptolemus, the son of Achilles (this way Byllis takes an Homeric origin). Byllis itself constituted a "canyon" within an area of 20 km².

The coins of Byllis were different from those of Apollonia, one side of which showed the head of Zeus. The first one to identify Byllis was a British named Holland, in one of its publications in 1815. The first archaeological data on the park were published by Austrian Karls Patch. The first archaeological excavations were carried out in 1917-1918 by the Austrian archaeologist Prshniker, while the Albanian expeditions took place in 1978-1991 by professor Papajani. The walls of Byllis are 2,250 meters long and they surround a very large surface of land. The wall has a triangular shape and it is adorned with 6 gates.



THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK OF FINIQI

The Archaeological Park of Finiqi is located at a distance 8 km far from the coastal city of Saranda, and nearly 20 km far from the border with Greece.

Named Phoenika, it has been the capital city of Kaonia in Epirus

This archaeological site is rich of archaeological objects, which date back from the classical period up to the Byzantine period, and are located in a still untouched landscape.

Evidences of many ancient sources (Polybius, Strabo, Titus Livius, Ptolemy and later Procopius and Hierokli) describe the great Column in Byllis Discover Albania 41 wealth of the city, especially during the Hellenistic period between century III and II B.C, when the city played an important role in the League of Epirus. In general, it had good relations with the Roman Republic (even though it did not offer assistance as some other cities to Philip V and later to Perseus of Macedonia during the conflict with Rome) and organized within its walls the signing of the treaty that gave an end to the First Macedonian War, known as the "Peace of Phoinike". The prosperity of the city continued certainly during the imperial period, over which there is now a lot of archaeological evidence. During the Byzantine period, the city continued its normal life for about ten centuries. Procopius documented the fact that Justinian was highly interested in important urban interventions. Turkish invasion, for which Ugolin found archaeological evidence that showed a violent conquest, brought an end to the old history of the city, which remained later a small village at the foot of the Acropolis hill; Finiqi that still exists.



THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK OF ORIKUM

It is located near the small city of Orikum, in the Southern part of the gulf of Vlora. It was mentioned for the first time by the Greek geographer and historian Skylaksi in century VI-V B.C. in his work "The Sailing" as the city of Oriku, a marine port in the Ionian and Adriatic Sea.

According to the legend, after the destruction of Troy, the Pelasgian tribe of Eubeas returned to the lands of their fathers and founded the city of Oriku.

The main object to be visited in this Archaeological Park is the Theatre of Oriku (which, in fact, is identified simply with a fountain by many archaeologists). It was built in centuries III-II B.C. and has a capacity that ranges from 400 to 600 spectators. The Port of Oriku was a very important site, especially during the period of civil war between Caesar and Pompey. It is thought that sunken ships dating from this period are found under the waters of this gulf.



THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK OF LEZHA

Lezhe (Lissus) is favourably located near the mouth of the Drin, was founded at least in the 8th century B.C. Following its ancient period, the city of Lezhe maintained a great historical importance throughout the Middle Ages. In the 1400s it was the site of the union of the Albanian princes under Skanderbeg, and was where Skanderbeg himself died and was buried. For all visitors Lezha provides the opportunity to visit and enjoy unique archaeological, monumental and historical sites. The settlement of Akrolissi (11th century B.C.) atop a nearby hill is the most ancient settlement in Lezha. Later on, in 385 B.C., the city of Lissus developed nearby. The most prominent monument in the current city is the Castle, which was started in the 4th century and completed in the year 1521. Below the Castle in the city center lies an Obelisk from 1968 that commemorates the union of the Albanian princes in the Council of Lezha on the 2nd of March, 1444. It is adjacent to the memorial and burial place of the leader of this union, national hero Gjergj Kastrioti Skanderbeg. This memorial was erected in 1981 on the ruins of Shen Kolli Church to honor the place where Skanderbeg was buried on January 17th, 1468.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK OF SHKODER

The castle of Rozafa and its surroundings form the other Archaeological Park of Albania. Due to its strategic location, the hill has been settled since antiquity. It was an Illyrian stronghold until it was captured by the Romans in 167 BC. The 19th-century German author and explorer Johann Georg von Hahn suggested that the ancient and medieval city of Shkodër was located immediately south of the Rozafa hill, between the hill and the confluence of Buna and Drin. The fortifications, as they have been preserved to date, are mostly of Venetian origin. The castle has been the site of several famous sieges, including the siege of Shkodra by the Ottomans in 1478 and the siege of Shkodra by the Montenegrins in 1912.





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5 DAYS ALBANIAN HIGHLIGHTS

**Day 1: Tirana Airport - Durrës
Ardenica Monastery - Apollonia
Vlora.** (196km - 3h20min)

Welcome to Albania.

Pick up at Tirana airport and transfer to Durres

Visit Durres. Durres is home to the biggest seaport in the country. The city is home to many ancient archaeological sites and finds. The most notable tourist attraction in Durrës is the Roman amphitheater with 15,000 seats, the second biggest amphitheater in the Balkans. It is the most ancient city in Albania, with almost 3,000 years of history.

Enjoy some free time in the pedestrian street Vollga in front of the sea then transfer to Ardenica.

Visit Ardenica Monastery built in 3rd century, where perhaps the most interesting historical event recorded in Ardenica is Skanderbeg's (Albanian National Hero) wedding. Beyond all its historical and cultural values, the Monastery is well worth visiting for the scenery that surrounds its strategic position and we will enjoy a local lunch with bio products of the area in a restaurant near by the Monastery.

Visit the park of Apollonia. Apollonia is a gorgeous archaeological site. In the ancient times, Apollonia was one of the most important economic and trade centers of Albania and the world with a population of approx. 50.000 inhabitants. The future Roman emperor Octavian Augustus also studied in this city. The site hosts also an Orthodox monastery and an archaeological museum.

Visit Vlora, a seaside city who it's not important only because of the port but it has a huge importance in the history of Albania. In this city Ismail Qemali proclaim the independence of Albania in 1912.

Overnight in Vlora
Estimated Duration of the tour this day 12 h



**Day 2: Vlora - Orikum - Llogara - Qeparo
- Porto Palermo - Himare - Saranda**
(124km -2h 52min)

After the breakfast we depart for Orikum

Visit Oriku Archeological Park. Nowadays the important site is located within Pashaliman Navy Base, thus tourists had to go through several safety procedures. The ancient city of Oriku was established during the sixth century BC. Archeological excavation that started during the 50s discovered the Acropolis, the port, stairs, the altar, the well, and the temple. Interesting fact is the houses were built inside the rocks and each house had a well.

Drive on the Albanian Riviera looking at the Ionian Sea. Stunning sceneries await us at the Llogara pass, about 1000 meters above sea level.

Visit National Park of Llogara. Enjoy a short hiking tour around the forests of Llogara National Park and have lunch in a local restaurant.

Visit Gjikondi Oil Factory at Qeparo Village. You will have the opportunity to taste and purchase the most delicious, their award-winning certified organic that is also sold abroad, Gjikondi - Extra Virgin Olive Oil and Virgin Olive Oil, directly from the factory

Visit Porto Palermo Castle. After this amazing experience have a stop to Porto Palermo Castle built on the hill of an island, connected to the shore via a narrow man-made strip of land, this castle attracts everyone's immediate attention. The castle was built in 19th century at the request of Ali Pashë Tepelena, (was an Ottoman Albanian ruler who served as pasha of the Pashalik of Yanina) after the destruction of Justinian's castle.

Continue to one of most charming towns of the Albanian Riviera, Saranda and have dinner at the Lekursi Castle offering a spectacular view over the city and Corfu Island.

Overnight in Sarande.
Estimated duration of the tour: 11h



Day 3:
Saranda – Butrint – Mussels Restaurant
Blue Eye – Gjirokaster
(106km – 2h 10min)

Transfer the ancient city of Butrint, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Visit Butrint National Park. The city was first settled by Greek colonists and was continuously inhabited for centuries forming archaeological layers of passing civilizations. It is situated in a beautiful peninsula among dense vegetation.

Mussels House. After this amazing tour experience a local dish at a relaxing restaurant near Butrint Lake. Fresh seafood and mussels straight from the water to your table will be served and same time we will enjoy a boat ride to the mussels farm and know more about mussels.

Visit Blue eye. A water spring with extremely light blue water bubbles in a more than 50-metre deep pool. You'll be mesmerized by how clear the water is, to the point that you'll be able to see straight to the bottom.

Last stop will be Gjirokaster a UNESCO site and museum town with very distinct architecture.

Visit Gjirokaster. The main characteristic of Gjirokastra is the intensive use of stone in building the houses, which look like small fortresses, the streets of cobblestone, which all lead to Bazaar. You can also visit the Mosque of Bazaar here, built in 1557. Due to all these features, Gjirokastra is also known as the “The Stone City”.

Visit the Fortress of Gjirokaster. The most important structure of the city is the castle, which is the biggest castle in Albania. Inside the castle, you can visit the Museum of Weapons, opened in 1971. Weapons from the prehistoric times up to the World War II are exhibited on here. The National Folk Festival has taken place in this castle during the years.

Next visit the Ethnographic Museum which is also the house where the Albanian dictator was born in.

Have dinner in a local restaurant and enjoy a folklore show with Albanian dance and music.

Overnight in Gjirokaster.
Estimated duration of the tour: 12 h



Day 4: Berat – Cobo Winery – Tirana
(256km – 4h 30min)
After breakfast transfer to Berat and start the tour by visiting castle.

Visit Berat Castle has particular interest as people still live within its walls in their traditional houses, as have their ancestors for centuries. The castle used to have over many churches of which 7 still remain, including one turned into Onufri Museum.

Visit Onufri Museum. Onufri was an Albanian Icon master painter of the 16th century who painted many orthodox churches in Albania and Greece and he used a unique Red color for his icons which still today no one else can copy it. After the visit of the castle, go down town.

Below the castle you can see the famous view of the facades of the houses, with windows that seem to stand above each other. With its houses built along the steep hill, the view of Mangalemi is the reason that another name for Berat is the City of the Floating Windows.

Across the Osum River lies the Gorica neighborhood, whose houses face those of Mangalemi. The arched bridge of Gorica, built in 1780, is a beautiful architectural monument constructed to link Gorica with Mangalemi.

Have some free time and enjoy a local lunch in a traditional restaurant.

Before heading to Tirana experience wine tasting at Cobo Winery.

Visit Cobo Winery. A family with a long tradition of producing wine. You will taste different local wines and Raki (Albanian Alcohol)

Overnight in Tirana
Estimated duration of the tour:12 h



Day 5: Tirana – Kruje – Airport
(57km – 1h 45min)

After the breakfast start the tour of Tirana

Visit Tirana - the heart and capital of Albania, like all other capital metropolises has never -ending movement and energy. With its clubs, bars, cafes and taverns. Tirana is worth discovering by both day and night. The hospitality shown towards tourists is something that will mark your journey not only in

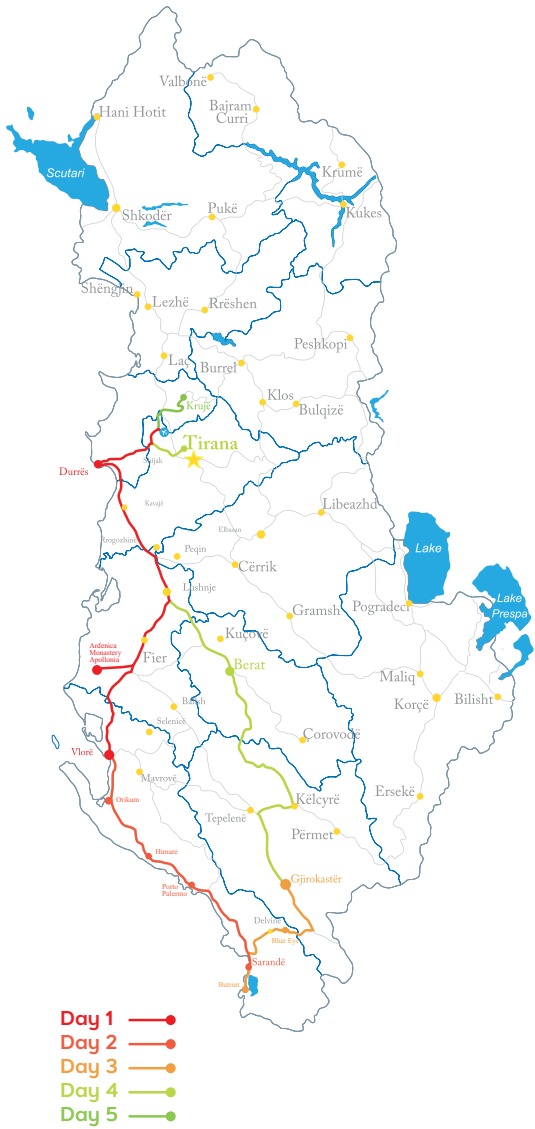
Tirana but also all over the country. Have a walk from the main square through the boulevard. Your own journey might begin by visiting the museums and the key spots such as Sheshi Skënderbej, where you will be able to see the Mosque of Et'hem Bey and the 35m high Kulla e Sahatit (the Watch Tower), built in 1822 with a San Marco style cupola.



Visit Kruje - The name and the importance of the city are closely related to the 25 years of activity of Albanian national hero, Skanderbeg, who in the fifteenth century made Kruja a bastion of uncompromising resistance against the Ottoman. The Gjergj Kastrioti Skanderbeg Museum is situated inside the castle walls, which date back to the fifth and sixth centuries A.D.

Within the walls of the castle are also the Ethnographic Museum and the Dollma Tekke. Near the castle's entrance is a traditional market, which dates back to the period of Skanderbeg. Here, you can find Albanian craft products such as embroidered items, carpeting, silver objects, copper, alabaster, filigree, traditional clothing, antiques at the traditional Old Bazaar of Kruja .

Visit workshop Master class handmade QELESHE. We will experience a master class fine art by Ndirim showing us all the process of doing Qeleshe (Traditional Hats).



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YOUR TOUR INCLUDES:

- Accommodation in a double/twin room in hotels (3* / 4*)
- Full Board Service Transportation and transfers
- Multilingual Tour Guide for all the TRF-s and excursions
- Local guides in national and archeological parks
- All excursions and sightseeing including entrance fees
- Wine Tasting in Cobo Winery Visiting of Gjirkondi Oil Fabric Local taxes

YOUR TOUR EXCLUDES:

- Other entrance fees
- Your personal expenses
- Extra drinks

Starting from
440 €/pax



www.albatrip.com

THE TASTE OF ALBANIA

Characteristics of the Albanian cuisine spread according to the regions of our country.

The cuisine of special nations has preserved the culinary antique traditions and at the same time, has enriched them with the experience of the culinary art of the other peoples. The direct geographical and historical adjacency has made it possible for them to have a significant influence on economy, culture and particularly on the lifestyle...

Day 1: Welcome to Albania

Meeting in Tirana in the morning. After the city tour, we will be heading towards our first food experience, the slow food movement restaurant **Mrizi i Zanave** (80 km) approx. 1:30 min drive from Tirana. Using incredible Albanian organic products, fresh meat and wild fish prepared on site every day, and paired with ingredients so good they really speak for themselves.

The menu is rich in Bio food. Only at Mrizi, you can taste aperitive with rose juice, entre with cheese, tomato gelatin and basil crème.

Some appetizer like tajir with Pumpkin Pie, corn pears with leek and liver of little, goat cheese from Kreshta farm, etc.

Variation of pickles like pickled with pumpkin, cucumber, shkurtze eggs and kallmeti olives, etc.

Before we start the lunch, we will have a tour around the Farm with a local explaining us the way they do their home-made products.

After lunch, we will head back to Tirana, where you will have a free afternoon and evening

Overnight in Tirana,



Day 2: Tirane – Berat (97 km)

Welcome to Berat, the 1000 windows city

In the morning, we will head towards a UNESCO protected city, Berat, also known for its many windows. Called also The White City. On the way, we will stop at one of the best wine producers in Albania, Nurellari Winery.

Winery consists of several vineyards, a winery, the family's house, and a wine presentation and tasting room. We will have a tour around the winery learning more about wine production in Albania.

Transfer to Berat and enjoy a local meal in a charming family home deep in the Mangalem Quarter below the castle is the setting for one of Berat's best restaurants. Products in Berat restaurants are generally BIO. This is felt in their particular taste. You can taste home-made specialties such as meat or cheese pie, walnut steaks, vegetable sausage, lamb on the grill accompanied by local vegetable garnishes. Homemade wine, or city canteens and craft rakia, are the best companions. Typical Berat desserts are raisins, monblan, trigona, walnut, baklava, shendetlie.

After a the traditional lunch, we will visit the Castle Castle and the Ethnographic museum.

We will continue having some traditional dinner as well as some traditional drink, the Raki.

Overnight in Berat



Day 3
Berat - Llogara National Park (147 km)

Today we will head towards Llogara National Park, one of the most scenic places in southern Albania. Qafa e Llogarase (Neck of Llogara) as the only terrestrial passage towards Riviera is an eating-relaxing station, where the tourists might enjoy the typical cuisine of the region, such as the meat baked in the broach, the warm plate with harapash (polenta), Pie with leeks and cottage cheese Albanian Gastronomy 33 (prepared with corn flour) with the entrails of the lambs, jelly with honey and nuts as well as other traditional dishes. The meat of this area is the most delicious one throughout the country. The approach to the sea and the quality of the pastures give an incomparable taste, particularly to the lamb of Karaburun and to the surrounding highlands. It is prepared in a skewer (an entire lamb) on the ember or in the oven. Even the pasterma (dried meat) is characteristic for the cold regions of this area. It is tinned meat in dry conditions, cooked with beans and it is used widely not only among the families but it is found even in restaurants.

There we can have a small hike in the pines surrounding the area. For dinner, we will focus on a delicious roasted lamb, which hand-in-hand with either raki or wine.

Overnight in Llogara,



Day 4:
The southernmost city Saranda (107 km)

Off we go south again. We will continue our way towards the Albanian Riviera, following the Ionian coastline. We will stop for lunch in Himara Village, Restaurant Dhimo where we will try some fish. After lunch, an optional hike to the old village of Qeparo. After, we will continue towards the city of Saranda. Again, fish-based dinner accompanied by white wine in a restaurant on top of Lekuresi Castle. Dinner will be accompanied with Folklor Show music.

Overnight in Saranda



Day 5:
Gjirokaster, the stone city (71 km)

In the morning we will head towards Butrint Archaeological Park. After the visit, we will continue our way towards Gjirokastra. But first, we will stop in the Blue Eye spring. After this coffee break, we will arrive in Gjirokaster, where a wonderful lunch will be waiting for us. In the afternoon we will visit the castle as well as the arms museum. In the evening, we will be having a traditional dinner, with roasted lamb. Also, one of the most famous traditional dishes of Gjirokastra is qifqia. The peculiarity of this cooking is in fact no more related to the ingredients than to the manner and means of its cooking. You will discover this secret in Gjirokastra...

Overnight in Gjirokaster,



Day 6:
The raki area - Permet (69 km)

Today we will travel to Gërmenj, but first, we will stop in Permet, one of the most important raki producing areas in Albania. Part of the tour will be the Gliko Tasting, Gliko is an important element of the local cuisine in Përmet and is made from many different fruits and vegetables, all grown locally by many of the valley's small-scale farmers. We will go in a local house where the lady will teach us how they prepare the gliko. After a traditional lunch, accompanied with the raki, head towards the thermal baths of Benje. After a swim there, we will continue towards Gërmenj. For dinner, we will have locally grown farm food.

Overnight in Permet.



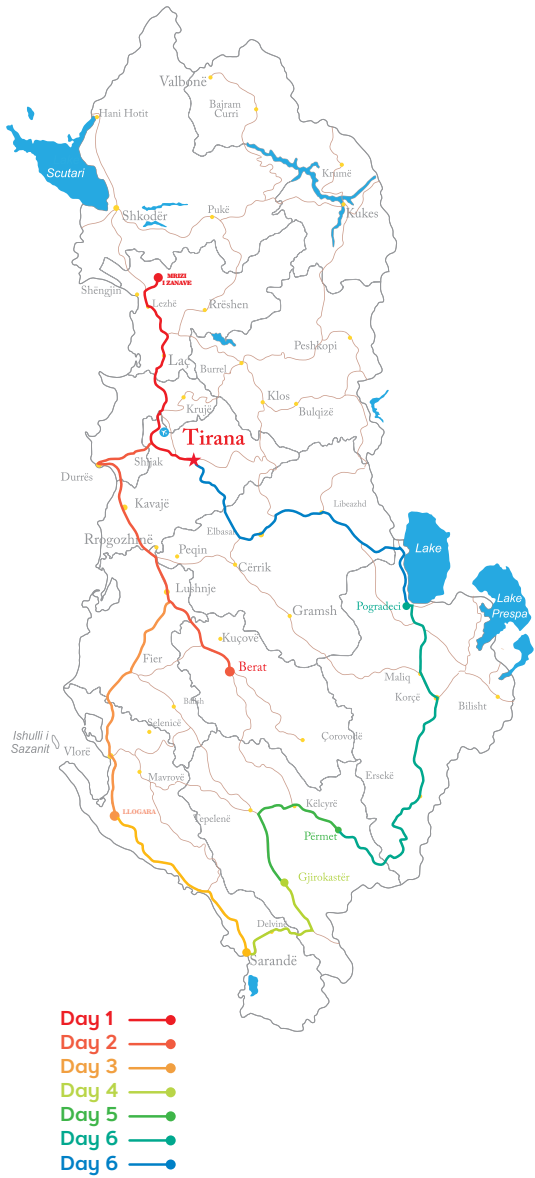
Day 7:
Towards Pogradec and Tirana (112 km)

Today, we will spend our final night in Albania. Our drive will not be long. We will have the most delicious fish for lunch upon arrival in Pogradec.

The Koran fish has a wonderful taste, but there is a story after it. It is the King of Lake Ohrid, Albanian side and is unique not only in Albania but in the world too. There are some articles saying that it is the favorite food of Queen Elizabeth. The story says that when the queen Elizabeth of United Kingdom came to visit Ohrid, she said: "The Queen of England meets the Queen of the Lake"

After, we will continue our way towards Tirana. The arrival in the capital will mark also the end of our tour.

Your tour includes:
Accommodation in a double/twin room in hotels (4* / 5*)



- Day 1
- Day 2
- Day 3
- Day 4
- Day 5
- Day 6
- Day 7

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YOUR TOUR INCLUDES:

- Full Board Service
Transportation and transfers
- Multilingual Tour Guide for all the TRF-s and excursions
- Local guides in national and archeological parks
- All excursions and sightseeing including entrance fees
Local taxes

YOUR TOUR EXCLUDES:

- Other entrance fees
- Your personal expenses
- Extra drinks

Starting from
700 €/pax



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BEACH & MOUNTAIN *tour*

Day 1 Arrive at Tirana Airport

Welcome in Albania

The Throughout guide will wait for you at the airport and after get in the bus, depart towards Tirana

Tirana, a city with never-ending movement and energy Tirana, the heart and capital of Albania, like all other European metropolises has never-ending movement and energy. With its clubs, bars, cafes, and taverns, Tirana is worth discovering by both day and night. The hospitality shown towards tourists is something that will mark your journey not only in Tirana but also all over the country.

Excursion to:
Scanderbeg Square (the main plaza in the center of Tirana, Albania. The square is named after the Albanian national hero Gjergj Kastrioti Skënderbeu).

The Pyramid of Tirana (a structure and former museum located in Tirana)

Bunk'art 2 (Unique Albanian history museum inside a preserved, Communist-era nuclear pit bunker.)

Overnight in Tirana



Day 2 Tirana-Dajti National Park - Durres

Meet with the Guide and transfer to Dajti Express. Take the cable car to (almost) the top of Dajti Mountain and enjoy the fantastic views. The longest cableway in the Balkans at 4.7 kilometers, the 15 minutes scenic journey takes visitors over forest, farms & hilltops.

Excursion to:
Dajti National Park (a perfect place to relax and breathe in fresh air)
After enjoying a delicious lunch in one of many restaurants at Dajti National park, transfer to Durres and Enjoy an unforgettable sunset in one of the best resorts.

Dinner and overnight at Hotel



Day 3 day Durres (Relax at the resort)

Located near the Adriatic Sea, with its own private beach, offers privileged opportunities to those who desire to experience a unique holiday with all the colors and chances of nature.

All the rooms have sea view or land view and are fully equipped with: Air Conditioned, Minibar, Safe box, TV LCD, Key-Card, and Hairdryer.



Day 4 Durres -Kruje-Durres

After having breakfast, meet the guide and start the city tour of Durres.

Durrës is the second-largest town of Albania, after the capital city Tirana and the first port of the country. Located on the Adriatic coast, Durrës is a sea town with many things to offers to visitors, including great beaches and unique archaeological landmarks, such as the largest amphitheater of the Balkan Peninsula.

Excursions to:

Amphitheater (an Amphitheatre in the center of the city of Durrës, Albania. Construction began under the emperor Trajan in the 2nd century AD)

Vollga Promenade (the city's bustling seaside promenade)

Transfer to Kruje

Rich in history and tradition, Kruja is home of the patriots and the epicenter of Albania's independence from the Ottoman Empire. It was here that Gjergj Kastriot Skanderbeg, Albania's greatest national hero, defended the country from the invasion of the Ottomans. The National Museum dedicated to the hero is housed in the famous Kruja Castle and shows both the legendary hero's history and the traditional way of life of the city's population. The city's famous bazaar serves as a bridge between this glorious past and the present, offering a rich array of traditional products made from local artisans.

Upon arrival enjoy a tasty lunch inside the castle



Excursion to:

Kruje Castle (historically one of the most important defensive strongholds in the country, fending off legions of foreign invaders throughout the centuries)

Scanderbeg Museum (dedicated to the most celebrated of all Albanian heroes)

Old Bazaar (famous for being one of the oldest in Albania. The construction of the beautiful and fascinating marketplace of Krujë dates back over 400 years, and was the starting point of free trade among the city's most established merchants.)

Transfer back to Durres



Day 5 Durres -Airport

Your tour includes:

Accommodation in a double/twin room in hotels (4* / 5*)



Day 1 —●—
Day 2 —●—
Day 3 —●—
Day 4 —●—

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES:

-  Full Board Service
Transportation and transfers
-  Multilingual Tour Guide for all the TRF-s and excursions
-  Local guides in national and archeological parks
-  All excursions and sightseeing including entrance fees
Local taxes

YOUR TOUR EXCLUDES:

- Other entrance fees
- Your personal expenses
- Extra drinks

Starting from
430 € / pax



BEST ATTRACTIONS FROM TIRANA

www.albatrip.com



Day 1 Airport - Tirana

*The best of Tirana!
Meet with the Guide and transfer
to Tirana.*

Tirana, the heart and capital of Albania, like all other capital metropolises has never - ending movement and energy. With its clubs, bars, cafes and taverns, Tirana is worth discovering by both day and night. The hospitality shown towards tourists is something that will mark your journey not only in Tirana but also all over the country. Have a walk from the main square through the boulevard and finish the tour with a visit of Bunkart 2.

Visit Bunkart2 - The little cousin to the main Bunk'Art, this museum, which is within a communist-era bunker and underground tunnel system below the Ministry of Internal Affairs, focuses on the role of the police and security services in Albania through the turbulent 20th century. While this might not sound especially interesting, the whole thing has been very well put together and makes for a fascinating journey behind police lines.

Overnight in Tirana or similar.



Day 2 Tirane - Dajti Cable Car - Kruje

The Medieval capital of Skanderbeg!

Meet with the Guide and transfer to Dajti Express. Take the cable car to (almost) the top of Dajti Mountain and enjoy the fantastic views. The longest cableway in the Balkans at 4.7 kilometers, the 15-minute scenic journey takes visitors over forest, farms & hilltops

Excursion to:

Dajti National Park (a perfect place to relax and breathe in fresh air)

After enjoying a delicious lunch in one of many restaurants at Dajti National park, we will visit Kruja Castle. In the time of the Ottoman threat, it was the headquarters of Gjergj Kastrioti, an Albanian nobleman and military commander. Kastrioti was sent as a hostage to the Ottoman court early in his life, and after leaving service, led a rebellion against the Ottoman Empire in Albania.

Under his command, the elliptical castle, defended by a small army usually no larger than 3,000 men, fought off multiple massive sieges from the Turks, beginning in 1444. Ottoman forces who conquered large areas like Constantinople and the Balkans could not break the castle's defenses.

Excursion to:

Scanderbeg Museum. Its spacious seven-level interior displays replicas of armor and paintings depicting Skanderbeg's struggle against the Ottomans. The museum is something of a secular shrine, and takes itself very seriously indeed, with giant statues and dramatic battle murals.

Ethnographic Museum. This traditional home in the castle complex below the Skanderbeg Museum houses one of the best ethnographic museums in the country. Set in an original 19th-century Ottoman house that belonged to the affluent Toptani family, the museum shows the level of luxury and self-sufficiency the household maintained by producing its own food, drink, leather and weapons. They even had their very own mini hammam (Turkish bath) and watermill.

Optional - Visit workshop Master class handmade Qeleshe. We will experience a master class fine art by Ndrim showing us all the process of doing Qeleshe (Traditional Hats).

Overnight in Tirana or similar.



Day 3 Tirana - Berat - Alpeta Winery

Discover the little secrets of Ancient city!

You will start your tour by visiting UNESCO World Heritage Site Berat. Steeped with a rich history, you'll soon discover why everyone loves it.



Berati 2,500 years-old, is the pride of Albanian architecture. The city forms a wonderful combination of eastern and western cultures, costumes, traditions and outlook. Inside the castle, there were built churches with precious frescos and icons. Here we will visit the Onufri Iconographic Museum. Today Onufri's spectacular paintings are displayed along with the church's beautifully gilded iconostasis of 19 century,

Nowadays, the castle is considered unique by the fact that people continue to live inside of it. The three major neighborhoods of the old city are Mangalemi, Gorica, and Kala (Castle), where the castle itself is located.

Excursion to: Berat Castle (a castle overlooking the town of Berat) Onufri Museum (a museum dedicated to Byzantine art and iconography in Berat)

Our tour also includes a tasty local lunch in a small village called Roshnik. We will have the opportunity to walk around, to taste the cuisine of the surrounding area and different types of wines, the best ones, experiencing the true meaning of Albanian hospitality.

Overnight in Mak Albania Hotel (5*) Tirana or similar.



Day 4 Shkoder - Venetian Factory Masks

Discover the "capital" of Albanian Culture

Today we will start the tour with Shkodra, a city of myths and legends. Along the way to the city we will first face the castle of Rozafa, which has a beautiful but bitter legend about its building which has come down to us from olden times.

After the visit of the castle we will continue to the famous pedestrian boulevard "Pedonale" - where you can see the first cinema, first radio, to know more about the first family of photographs in Balkan, nowadays Marubi Museum, the St Stephen Cathedral where nowadays is the museum of Mother Theresa.

You will find that this naturally unique city has an abundance of mirrors in the Adriatic Sea, the Lake of Shkodra and the Buna River. Otherwise called the "city of bicycles," the city's views are best admired while pedaling in the open air!



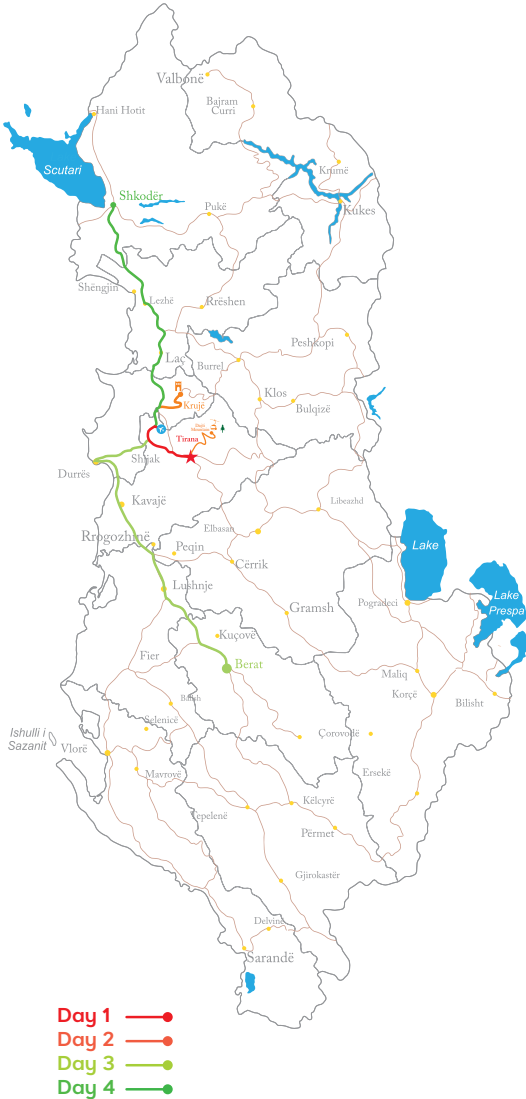
Next stop will be Venetian Factory masks, a family-owned company with headquarters in Albania. It is one of the world's leading manufacturers of handmade Venetian paper masks. (This factory produced all the masks used at the famous movie "The Golden Age".)

Our tour also includes a local lunch at Mrizi i Zanave. It's set in village of Fishte, a location which gave birth to Albania's national poet, Gjergj Fishta, the author of The Highland Lute. Using incredible Albanian organic products, fresh meat and wild fish prepared on site every day, and paired with ingredients so good they really speak for themselves.

Overnight in Mak Albania Hotel (5*) Tirana or similar.

Day 5 Airport

The last day of your tour you will have free time for leisure at your hotel area. Transfer to Airport



Day 1 —●—
Day 2 —●—
Day 3 —●—
Day 4 —●—



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YOUR TOUR INCLUDES:



Accommodation in a double/twin room in hotels (5*)



Full Board Service
Transportation and transfers
Multilingual Tour Guide for all the TRF-s and excursions



Local guides in national and archeological parks



All excursions and sightseeing including entrance fees



Wine Tasting in Cobo Winery
Visiting of Gjilkondi Oil Fabric

YOUR TOUR EXCLUDES:

Other entrance fees
Your personal expenses
Extra drinks

Starting from
520 €/pax



THE BEST OF ALBANIA

Day 1. Airport Tirana – Durres (57 km - 1h 20min)

Depending on arrival time, we will arrange the tour of Tirana. If the group arrive afternoon, will proceed to the Hotel.

Tirana, the heart and capital of Albania, like all other capital metropolises has never-ending movement and energy. With its clubs, bars, cafes and taverns, Tirana is worth discovering by both day and night. The hospitality shown towards tourists is something that will mark your journey not only in Tirana but also all over the country.

Have a walk from the main square through the boulevard and finish the tour with a visit of Bunkart 2.

Visit Bunkart2

The little cousin to the main Bunk'Art, this museum, which is within a communist era bunker and underground tunnel system below the Ministry of Internal Affairs, focuses on the role of the police and security services in Albania through the turbulent 20th century. While this might not sound especially interesting, the whole thing has been very well put together and makes for a fascinating journey behind police lines. Have a walk from the main square through the boulevard. After the tour of the city, transfer to Durres.

Dinner and overnight in Hotel.

Day 2. Durres – Preze – Kruje – Marikaj (Wine Tasting) – Durres (85 km- 1h 45min)

Breakfast at the Hotel. Meet with guide and transfer to Preze Castle, 30 min from Durres City.

Visit Preze Castle

It is known for its strategic location, overlooking Tirana and opposite Kruja. The small castle lies close to Mother Tereza International Airport. Construction began in the 14th century and was completed in the early 15th century. The most interesting historical event is Scanderbeg Sister's wedding in 15th century where were invited many aristocrats of the world.

Transfer to Kruja (30 min)

Kruja is home of the patriots and the epicenter of Albania's independence from the Ottoman Empire. It was here that Gjergj Kastriot Skanderbeg, Albania's greatest national hero, defended the country from the invasion of the Ottomans. The National Museum dedicated to the hero is housed in the famous Kruja Castle and shows both the legendary hero's history and the traditional way of life of the city's population. The city's famous bazaar serves as a bridge between this glorious past and the present, offering a rich array of traditional products made from local artisans.

Visit Kruja Castle

In the time of the Ottoman threat, it was the headquarters of Gjergj Kastrioti, an Albanian nobleman and military commander. Kastrioti was sent as a hostage to the Ottoman court early in his life, and after leaving service, led a rebellion against the Ottoman Empire in Albania. Under his command, the elliptical castle, defended by a small army usually no larger than 3,000 men, fought off multiple massive sieges from the Turks, beginning in 1444. Ottoman forces who conquered large areas like Constantinople and the Balkans could not break the castle's defenses.

Scanderbeg Museum

Its spacious seven-level interior displays replicas of armor and paintings depicting Skanderbeg's struggle against the Ottomans. The museum is something of a secular shrine, and takes itself very seriously indeed, with giant statues and dramatic battle murals.

Ethnographic Museum

This traditional home in the castle complex below the Skanderbeg Museum houses one of the best ethnographic museums in the country. Set in an original 19th-century Ottoman house that belonged to the affluent Toptani family, the museum shows the level of luxury and self-sufficiency the household maintained by producing its own food, drink, leather and weapons. They even had their very own mini hammam (Turkish bath) and watermill. After the tour of the bazaar, Scanderbeg Museum and Ethnographic museum, have lunch in a local restaurant. After lunch enjoy some free time in the bazaar.

Transfer to Marikaj for Wine tasting at Bardha Winery.

Located on a soft hilly relief, "Bardha" winery offers a gorgeous landscape surrounded by vineyards and olive groves. "Bardha" is known for its high-quality products and among its most popular wines are: Merlot Wine; Cabernet cuvee with grape types: Cabernet, Merlot from Leskovik, etc.

Transfer back Hotel and have a dinner in a local restaurant.



Day 3.
Durres – Berat – Apolonia Archeological Park – Vlore (201 km - 3h 45min)

Breakfast at Hotel.
Meet with the guide and transfer to Berat.
This upland city in south-central Albania has 2,500 years of history, which has bestowed it with stunning archaeology, quaint residential areas and preserved monuments. Berat’s appeal lies in its UNESCO World Heritage architecture and the epic mountain scenery that shelters the city. Since coming under the yoke of the Ottoman Empire in the 1400s Berat is also a place where Christians and Muslims have lived together in relative peace, with churches and mosques sharing the same space. The cityscape is part of Berat’s charm, where picturesque stone houses on the steep hillsides seem to be stacked on top of each other.

Visit Berat Castle
This castle is the pride and joy of the city of Berat. Its courtyard offers spectacular views of the city and the valley below, it dates back to 2500 years. It houses many historical elements. More than 20 Christian churches, and a central museum which surrounds one of the largest Orthodox churches with many 16th century paintings.

Life never ended inside the castle and still today there are living families in their traditional houses built since 17th century.

Visit Onufri Museum
Part of the tour will be also Onufri Museum, situated in the Kala quarter’s biggest church. Today Onufri’s spectacular 16th-century religious paintings are displayed along with the church’s beautifully gilded 19th-century iconostasis. The red of Onufri used in his Icons were very unique and is mysterious still today.

Spend some time at **Gorica Bridge**, which was built during 18th century to connects 2 neighborhoods Mangalemi and Gorica, once a time divided Managlemi lived by Muslims and Gorica by Christians. During free time enjoy panoramic view of Mangelemi neighborhood. Transfer to Apolonia Archeological park.

Visit Apollonia Archeological Park
Apollonia is a gorgeous archaeological site. In the ancient times, Apollonia was one of the most important economic and trade centers of Albania and the world with a population of approx. 50.000 inhabitants. The future Roman emperor Octavian Augustus also studied in this city. The site hosts also an Orthodox monastery and an archaeological museum.

[Transfer to Vlora.](#) Have dinner and overnight in Hotel.



Day 4
Vlore – Amantia Archeological Park – Kanine Castle – Monastery of Zvernec – Vlore (35 km - 1h)

Have breakfast in Hotel.
Start the city tour of Vlora with local guide.
The city carries historical importance to Albania as it hosted the First National Assembly, which declared the country’s independence from Ottoman rule on November 28th, 1912. Vlora is the starting point of the Albanian Riviera and is one of the most frequented areas of Albanian tourism.

Visit National Museum of Independence
As the building which hosted the operations of the very first Albanian government. This museum offers the most comprehensive information regarding the most culminating events in the life of a country. It was in the famous balcony of this bright yellow, traditional house that Ismail Qemali raised the Albanian flag in 1912.

Transfer to Amantia Archaeological Park.
Visit Amantia Archeological Park
The Illyrian city of Amantia is nowadays one of the largest archaeological parks in the country and a testimony to the rich ancient history of the Ionian coast. What makes this particular park unique is its semblance of being not entirely discovered.

Transfer to Kanine Castle. Visit Kanine Castle
Built in the 3rd century BC on one of the oldest settlements in the area, the castle features Byzantine, Venetians and Turkish elements and a beautiful view over the Vlora city due to its position on top of a 380m hill above the sea level.

[Have lunch in a local restaurant.](#)
[Transfer to Zvernec Monastery.](#)

Visit Zvernec Monastery
The monastery is an impressive object of significant cultural and religious value. Its construction is thought to have occurred between the 12th and 13th centuries and, thus, boasts an architecture that is typical of the Byzantine era. To reach the monastery, you follow the charming bridge that, stretching over the water, connect the island with land.

Transfer back to hotel and enjoy some free time at Lungomare Boulevard.

[Have dinner in a local restaurant.](#) Overnight at Hotel in Vlora.



Day 5. Vlore – Llogara – Himare – Sarande (124km - 3h)

Breakfast at Hotel.
Meet with guide and depart towards Llogara National park and on the way visit Oriku Ancient City.

Visit Oriku Ancient City
During the communist period in Albania, archeological excavations in Orikum were limited. At the time, the area functioned only as a military base. Indeed, the establishment of the Archaeological Park of Orikum, within the military base of Pashaliman, is open for the tourists. Except many bunkers on the way to the park, the houses built within the rocks and the wells make this ancient city very special.

[Depart toward Llogara Pass.](#)

Visit Llogara National Park
Where the Adriatic and the Ionian Seas meet, begins the journey towards the Llogara National Park. The lush forests of pines and oaks are only the beginning of this “mountain of panoramas”, which is beautifully surrounded by numerous mountain ranges and the majestic Ionian Sea. It was there where Julius Caesar asked for help to attack and ruin the Pompeii. The road he prescribed passed through Llogara and the first place where the army set the camp was later named after him and since then it has been called ‘Caesar’s Pass’. From this place you can see the whole Dukat valley and the Vlora Bay.

[We will walk same pass as Caesar in 48 AC.](#)

Transfer to Himara. Visit Himara
The largest village of the southern Riviera, because of its strategic position along the Ionian coast, the village has had a long history of consistent growth. The mixture of Albanian cuisine and Greek spoken language will make you feel in a diverse country.

[Have lunch in a local restaurant.](#)
[Transfer to Porto Palermo Castle.](#)

Visit Porto Palermo Castle
The castle was built in 1814 at the request of Ali Pashë Tepelena, after the destruction of Justinian’s castle. Situated on the hill of an island, connected to the shore via a narrow man-made strip of land, this castle attracts everyone’s immediate attention. The castle’s great condition and its locations atop Porto Palermo’s beautiful historic beach, that is accessible to everyone, earned it first place in the Huffington Post’s list of the 15 Undiscovered European Destinations to visit in 2018.

[Transfer to Saranda.](#) Dinner and overnight in hotel Sarande.



Day 6.
Sarande – Butrint – Lekursi Castle Sarande (40 km – 50 min)

Breakfast at the Hotel.
Meet with the local guide and transfer to Butrint National Park.

Visit the national Park of Butrint
Of the countless antique ruins and landmarks of Albania, Butrint is the one most responsible for putting Albania on the map. Butrint’s glorious 2500-year-old ruins, are some of the most well-preserved in Europe. In 1992, Butrint was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO and it sits comfortably at the top of every international list of must-sees in Albania. What is especially wonderful about Butrint is that its many gorgeous, well-preserved monuments reflect each distinct stage of its rich history, starting from the Hellenistic period and continuing on to the Roman, Byzantine and Venetian periods. Each has left its own beautiful trace on this place!

Have lunch at Mussel’s House Restaurant.

The Mussel House Restaurant is a beautiful and relaxing restaurant near Butrint Lake where you can enjoy a delicious lunch or dinner with family and friends. Fresh seafood and mussels straight from the water to your table. Friendly staff and prices for all budgets. At the Mussel House everyone feels like in his own house!

Have free time in the hotel area.
Meet up with guide and have the city tour of Saranda.



Visit Saranda
Considered as the unofficial capital of the Albanian Riviera, a city plenty of things to see and do, especially in summertime when it gives its best. Saranda is one of the favored destinations by Albanians to spend their holidays. Here, you can walk admiring the gorgeous sea views or sit at a bar, order a coffee and relax.

Visit the Synagogue
These ruins of a 5th-century synagogue are located right in the heart of town and provide evidence of one of the earliest Balkan-Jewish communities. There are four floor mosaics here, which are normally covered with sand to protect them, though photos are provided on the walls.

Transfer to Lekursi Catle. Visit Lekursi Castle
Its strategic position on a hill of about 300 meters in height as well as its panoramic views of Saranda, the Butrint Lagoon and even the island of Corfu, make this destination a tourist favorite. Not to mention that, inside the fortress, you will find one of the best-known bars and restaurants in Saranda which also offers the most beautiful view of the sunset.

Have dinner inside the castle with Folklore Show.
Have a wonderful evening enjoying authentic Albanian folklore show and delicious four-course dinner. The meal is served in a superb restaurant located in one on top of the castle.

Transfer back to Hotel.



Day 7.
Sarande – Blue Eye – Gjirokaster – Durres (255km – 4h 20min)
Breakfast at the Hotel

Transfer to Blue Eye Visit Blue Eye
The Blue Eye is a water spring with extremely light blue water bubbles in a more than 50-metre deep pool. You’ll be mesmerized by how clear the water is, to the point that you’ll be able to see straight to the bottom.

Depart toward Gjirokaster.

Visit the City of Gjirokaster
A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the old town of Gjirokaster is famous for being a well-preserved Ottoman town. With its fortress overlooking the entire city, the old houses lean against the slopes of the hills with their beautiful old wooden facades. The birthplace of communist leader Enver Hoxha and notable writer Ismail Kadare, there’s plenty to see in this exceptional town.

Visit The castle of Gjirokaster
The most popular tourist attraction in Gjirokastër, dominates the town from up the hill. During the rule of Ali Pasha, the castle was a military fortress, while in the Second World War it served as a shelter for the city residents against aerial bombing. The castle’s prison was used extensively by Zog’s government and housed political prisoners during the more recent Communist regime. After the visit of the Castle have lunch in a local restaurant.

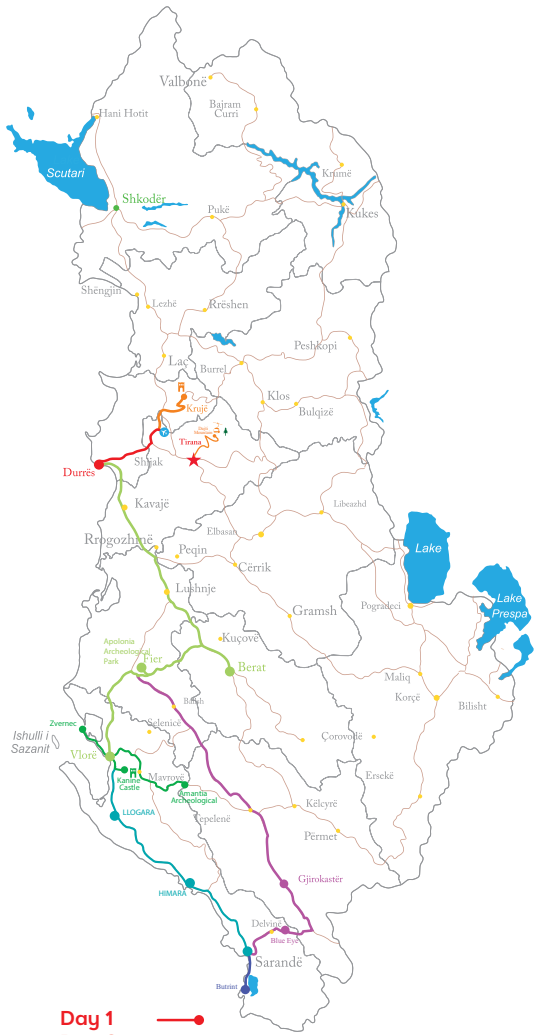
Visit Skenduli House
The lovingly restored Ottoman-era Skenduli House has been in the hands of the same family for generations and you’ll most likely be shown around by a member of the family. Dating from the early 1700s, the house has many fascinating features. Have some free time in the bazaar.

Depart toward Durres. Overnight and dinner at the Hotel.



Day 8.
Durres – Tirana Airport (32km – 36min)
First day and last day can be rearranged and fillet with excursions after having the flight details.
Depending on Departing time we will arrange some sightseeing.

NB! The excursion program can be changed due to museums days off and other reasons without changing the number and quality services



- Day 1
- Day 2
- Day 3
- Day 4
- Day 5
- Day 6
- Day 7



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- All excursions and sightseeing including entrance fees
- Wine Tasting in Cobo Winery
- Visiting of Gjirkondi Oil Fabric

YOUR TOUR EXCLUDES:

- Other entrance fees
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- Extra drinks

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Day 1 Airport Tirana

Welcome in Albania

Meet with the Tour Guide and transfer to Berati.

Berat is one of those places that you need to visit at least once in your lifetime, not only for its unique architecture, but also for its religious tolerance. UNESCO even included it in its list of world heritage sites. The small town that was built inside the castle's walls is one of the most enchanting places you'll see in Albania. There are even a few people that still live there. The area looks magical with its ancient ruins, wildflowers and small courtyards.

Excursion to:

Berat Castle-a magnificent and elegant as it ever has been, and is the crown jewel of this glorious ancient city. Onufri Museum-with spectacular sixteenth century paintings created by the greatest Albanian icon-painter of all time.

Day 2

Berat -Abaz Ali Tekke (Mount Tomorr) Nurrellari Winery -Berat

Departure from Berat at 8:00 am.

Mount Tomorr is considered to be the ancient home of the Illyrian gods and with an elevation of 2400 meters, has a deeper and spiritual significance as it is so close to god.

This sacred mountain is topped by the Bektashi tomb of Baba (Father) Tomorri and is visited often by those who follow this ancient, mystic religion. Burning candles, money offerings and sacrificed lambs are evidence that recent worshipers have visited the tomb seeking a blessing from above. The veranda around the tomb offers an amazing panorama where you can see the cities of Berat, Polican and Gramsh. After enjoying this rare glimpse of Albanian culture and nature, our guide will take you to Nurellari Winery ranked as one of the best wine production in Albania.

Day 3 Berat -Sari Salltik - Kruje

A BLESSED PILGRIMAGE WITH A SPECTACULAR VIEW AT SARISALLTIK

Sarisalltik is one of the most significant religious places in Albania. For the adventurous souls willing to take on the hike, the pilgrimage in Sarisalltik is a truly transformative experience, which will remain with you for a lifetime!

This is where most miraculous events take place which, through generations, are passed on as legends. One of Albania's many peaks associated with its respective legend is the Sarisalltik (Sah-ree-sahl-tick), at the height of 1176m. This place marks the epicentre of dissemination of the Bektashi Order in Albania. For the Bektashi believers, climbing the mountain has a sacred meaning. The best way to understand why, is with a visit of your own!

After the pilgrimage tour transfer to Kruje old Town. Rich in history and tradition, Kruja is home of the patriots and the epicenter of Albania's independence from the Ottoman Empire. It was here that Gjergj Kastriot Skanderbeg, Albania's greatest national hero, defended the country from the invasion of the Ottomans. The National Museum dedicated to the hero is housed in the famous Kruja Castle and shows both the legendary hero's history and the traditional way of life of the city's population. The city's famous bazaar serves as a bridge between this glorious past and the present, offering a rich array of traditional products made from local artisans.

Upon arrival enjoy a tasty lunch inside the castle

Excursion to:

- *Kruje Castle (historically one of the most important defensive strongholds in the country, fending off legions of foreign invaders throughout the centuries)*
- *Scanderbeg Museum (dedicated to the most celebrated of all Albanian heroes)*
- *Old Bazaar (famous for being one of the oldest in Albania. The construction of the beautiful and fascinating marketplace of Krujë dates back over 400 years, and was the starting point of free trade among the city's most established merchants.)*

MIRACLE TOUR



Day 4

Kruje – St. Anthony church (Lac) - Shkoder

Transfer to Lac Town WHERE FAITH SURVIVED AGAINST ALL ODDS

Albania's history with religion is complex, rendering the country a haven of religious tolerance as much as a place of general religious confusion and instability. Many religions co-exist in the country, something that is especially noticeable after the fall of communism. Religion was banned during the latter and many holy places either became nonfunctional or were destroyed. While many of these places were restored, along with the general faith of the Albanian people, their road to reinstitution has been challenging. Saint Anthony Church of Laç is one of those rarities, however, that never lost its believers and maintained a significant influence on the Albanian people.

Each week before the 13th of June, on the hilly heights around the town of Laç, thousands of believers gather at the Saint Anthony Church of Laç. The church is named after the Franciscan priest, born in Lisbon in 1195, who dedicated his life on earth to his faith and spreading hope to the people. The holy teacher Saint Anthony of Padua (as he is known in ecclesiastical literature) was so renowned for his profound knowledge that Pope Gregory IX named him the "Living Ark of the Bible." What makes him an especially well-respected figure is the fact that he served under the Franciscan Order despite being born into a royal family in Portugal. He refused life as a descendant of nobles and, instead, spent it spreading the word of the Gospel. His devotion to the Catholic Church and unending support for the needy brought him to Albania, where this famous church honors his name.

After visiting the Church, many people descend to the Cave of Saint Vlash Martyr, and many other pilgrims stop by the corner of candles to pray to the Saint. If you ask Albanian believers and nonbelievers where they turn to in times of trouble, many will mention this church! Easily accessible from all national roads and cities in Albania, this holy place is most definitely worth experiencing.

Transfer to Shkoder

Along the way to the city we will first face the castle of Rozafa, which has a beautiful but bitter legend about its building which has come down to us from olden times.



Sightseeing to:

Rozafa Castle

After the visit of the castle we will continue to the famous pedestrian boulevard "Pedonale" - where you can see the first cinema, first radio, to know more about the first family of photographs in Balkan, nowadays Marubi Museum, the St Stephen Cathedral where nowadays is the museum of Mother Theresa.

You will find that this naturally unique city has an abundance of mirrors in the Adriatic Sea, the Lake of Shkodra and the Buna River. Otherwise called the "city of bicycles," the city's views are best admired while pedaling in the open air!

Day 5

Shkoder-Budva-Kotor-Our Lady of the Rocks (Perast)-Herceg Novi

Transfer to Montenegro.

The first stop will be St. Stefan. Once a small fisherman village, nowadays it is luxurious tourist resort. The island is connected to the mainland by a narrow isthmus. On both sides of the mainland near the Island, beautiful sandy beach is spread. The island is private property so it can only be photographed from the shore line.

Our next stop is the ancient walled town of Budva, known for its sandy beaches and diverse nightlife. Budva is considered to be one of the oldest settlements on the Balkan Peninsula. The old town of Budva lies on a little island that was linked to the land by a sandbar and in time turned into a peninsula. It is surrounded by ramparts originating from the XV century including a medieval fortification system with city gates, defense walls and towers. Inside the walls the town is a combination of narrow streets and little squares with valuable monuments of different Mediterranean cultures. You will have the possibility to have traditional Montenegrin lunch here, the fish is a must try, as it is a specialty.

After lunch we drive to Kotor. Kotor's Old Town is rich in history and one of the finest examples of medieval architecture in Adriatic. After a coffee stop at one of the old town squares you will go sightseeing of Kotor in the Bay of Kotor, a medieval town, one of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites - a tour of the Maritime Museum and St. Tripun's Cathedral.

Transfer to Perast (Our Lady of the Rocks)

is the name of one of two tiny islands located in the inner part of Boka Kotorska bay, near the old town or Perast.

The peculiar fact about these island is that they are almost completely man made.

The island began as a pile of rocks, and according to legend, on 22nd of July 1452, two fishermen, brothers Moršić discovered an image of Virgin Mary there. A tiny Orthodox chapel was built on the site.

In the 1600s Venetians took over the region of Boka and the city of Perast. In 1630 they built a Catholic chapel on the place of original orthodox one. They decided to further expand the island by piling rocks from the mainland and by sinking the old ships. The custom remains to this day. Every 22nd of July at sunset citizens of Perast take their boats and throw rocks into the sea. The custom is known as fašinada.

Overnight in Herceg Novi



Day 6

Herceg Novi – Franciskan Monastery (Dubrovnik)

Transfer to Croatia

Today will head to the most beautiful Old Towns in Europe

Regardless of whether you are visiting Dubrovnik for the first time or the hundredth, the sense of awe never fails to descend when you set eyes on the beauty of the old town. Indeed it's hard to imagine anyone becoming jaded by the city's limestone streets, baroque buildings and the endless shimmer of the Adriatic, or failing to be inspired by a walk along the ancient city walls that protected the capital of a sophisticated republic for centuries.

Sightseeing to:

Dubrovnik Old Town

Dubrovnik City Walls

Franciskan Monastery

Rectors Palace

Enjoy some free time for leisure before getting to the hotel.



Day 7
Dubrovnik-Medjugorje (Our Lady of Medjugorje)
-Mostar

Transfer to Bosnia

We drive to one of Europe's most sacred place - Medjugorje.

We start from agreed pick up point and set out our journey to discover Herzegovina and enjoy our drive on Adriatic road whit your private driver to Medjugorje. Just outside of Dubrovnik city we will join Adriatic road and follow coastal line passing by city of Neum, the only place on the Adriatic coast what belongs to

Bosnia&Herzegovina.

In Neum we will make our short break for refreshment and toilet break. Neum is considered to be one of the coastal towns which have the greatest number of sunny days in the year. Neum is located 60 km from Dubrovnik and 70 km from Medjugorje so we are half way to our destination Medjugorje.

On arrival in Medjugorje, join the daily English Mass at 10 am and on Sundays at noon.

Excursion to:

- Medjugorje Apparition Hill - where the young visionaries first encountered Our Lady. As you climb, you can see the inspired artistry of the bronze plaques depicting each mystery of the rosary, and touch and pray before the cross that commemorates the spot where Mary appeared to the visionaries. For the pilgrims, an encounter with Apparition Hill is encounter with Our Lady through personal prayer and prayer of the rosary.
- Prayer Area, Statue of the Risen Saviour - contemporary sculpture of Christ. This sculpture has an unexplained seepage of water from the leg. Later in the day you

be able to purchase a package of small cloth napkins and moistened each napkin with this water. What a wonderful gift it can be to give special, religious friends back home.

- Medjugorje Statue Of the Queen of Peace - The marble statue of the Queen of Peace, which became a symbol of the Shrine (the work of Dino Felici from Italy) was put up in 1987 at the square in front of the church.
- Medjugorje The Exterior Altar - built in 1989, and the surrounding prayer area (about 5000 seats), are a place of gathering in the summer time and for big feasts, when numerous thousands of pilgrims gather in Medjugorje.

Transfer to Mostar

star is the largest city in Hercegovina, with a small but thoroughly enchanting old town centre. At dusk the lights of numerous millhouse restaurants twinkle across gushing streams, narrow Kujundžiluk bustles joyously with trinket sellers and, in between, the Balkans' most celebrated bridge forms a majestic stone arc between medieval towers.

Excursion to:

Old Bridge

Overnight in Mostar



Day 8 Mostar-Split-Zadar

Split is the second - largest city of Croatia and the largest city in the region of Dalmatia. It lies on the eastern shore of the Adriatic Sea. The town is extremely attractive for tourists and it has more than 2700 hours of sunshine a year. The citizens of Split always say 2 things: first, that Split is the most beautiful city and secondly that its women are the most beautiful women in the world. Many tourists tend to agree after taking a walk around its streets and parks, and we are sure that those reasons are good enough to visit this sunny place and to make sure if Split citizens are right.

Excursion to:

Diocletians Palace- (is an ancient palace built for the Roman emperor Diocletian at the turn of the fourth century AD)

Transfer to Zadar

Home to a historic old town of Roman ruins, medieval churches, cosmopolitan cafes and quality museums set on a small peninsula, Zadar is an intriguing city. It's not too crowded and its two unique attractions - the sound-and-light spectacle of the Sea Organ and the Sun Salutation - need to be seen and heard to be believed.

Overnight in Zadar



Day 9 Zadar-Plitvice National Park -Zagreb

Transfer to Plitvice

The unity and harmony of 16 lakes and their rare natural and cultural value is not famous only throughout Croatia, but also worldwide; earning this remarkable national park a coveted place on UNESCO's list of World Heritage sites. Arriving to Plitvice, we'll walk through these ancient woodlands led by our experienced guide. The path takes us first across Gornja Jezera (Upper Lakes), a system of 12 lakes separated by travertine barriers. Then it's time for a peaceful boat ride towards the second area called Donja Jezera (Lower Lakes), placed in a limestone canyon. Wherever you are in Plitvice it's easy to see why its travertine marble formations are such an extraordinary natural phenomenon. The barriers, sills and other forms created in these lakes, karst rivers and streams are still an ongoing process that shapes the wonderful landscapes that make your walk through the park so enjoyable. It's these same travertine formations that have and are still creating the numerous magnificent waterfalls here. Over time, the water changes its course, leaving some barriers dry as it deposits new layers elsewhere. This constant evolution makes the Plitvice Lakes never look the same. The best way to actually see this happening is when you are standing in front of the Big Waterfall, 78 meters high. The roaring thunder of the water as it hits the ground is unforgettable! Our journey ends with a tram ride.

Transfer to Zagreb Overnight in Zagreb

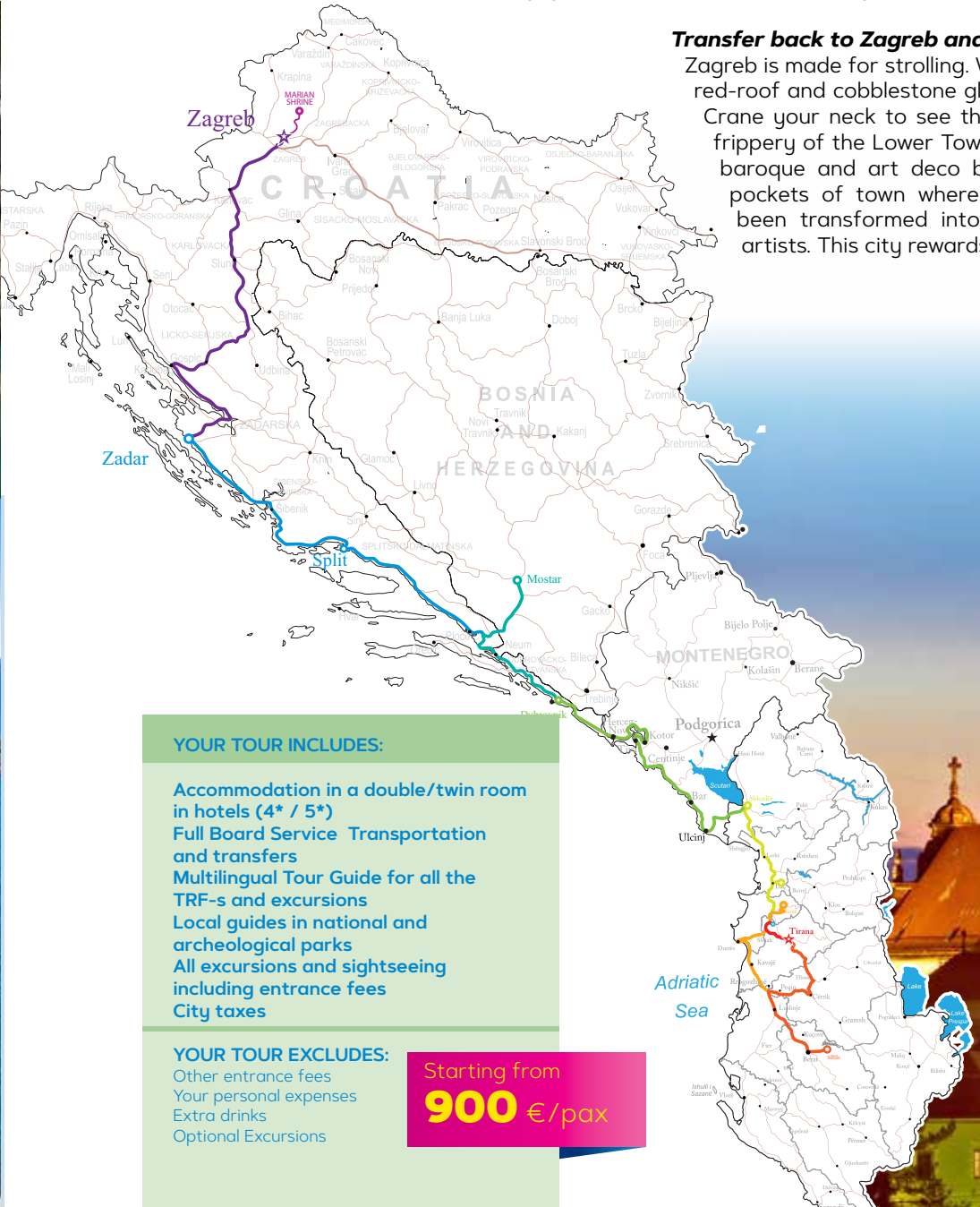
Day 10
Zagreb -Marian Shrine (Marija Bistrica) -Zagreb

This is the most important pilgrimage destination in Croatia and the country's largest Marian shrine, attracting some 800,000 pilgrims annually. The statue of Mary allegedly has miraculous powers and the natural setting is stunning. Croatia is a predominantly Catholic country, and for that reason the Virgin Mary is the most venerated of all the saints here. The most significant saint's day is the Feast of the Assumption of Mary on August 15, which is known here as "Velika Gospa", which translates roughly as "The Great Lady". This is a public holiday in Croatia, and if your visit to a Marian shrine coincides with this day, you'll find it is marked in fine style, and is very very busy.

Transfer back to Zagreb and visit the capital of Croatia.

Zagreb is made for strolling. Wander through the Upper Town's red-roof and cobblestone glory, peppered with church spires. Crane your neck to see the domes and ornate upper-floor frippery of the Lower Town's mash-up of secessionist, neo-baroque and art deco buildings. Search out the grittier pockets of town where ugly-bland concrete walls have been transformed into colorful murals by local street artists. This city rewards those on foot.

Transfer to Airport



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UNESCO TOUR

From north to south of this small but naturally rich country, you will encounter historic cities, natural wonders, and artforms that echo from antiquity. For a decidedly small country, Albania boasts an impressive six UNESCO World Heritage Sites and one ancient artform of profound significance: Iso-polyphony, considered a masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Day 1 Tirane-Berat (98km - 2h)

Welcome to Albania.

A local guide and the driver will wait for you in the airport welcoming you with some Albanian sweets.

Transfer to Berati.

Arrive in Berat and start the sightseeing tour with local guide. This upland city in south-central Albania has 2,500 years of history, which has bestowed it with stunning archaeology, quaint residential areas and preserved monuments. Berat's appeal lies in its UNESCO World Heritage architecture and the epic mountain scenery that shelters the city. Since coming under the yoke of the Ottoman Empire in the 1400s Berat is also a place where Christians and Muslims have lived together in relative peace, with churches and mosques sharing the same space. The cityscape is part of Berat's charm, where picturesque stone houses on the steep hillsides seem to be stacked on top of each other.

Excursions to:

Visit Berat Castle-The castle dates back to 2500 years. It houses many historical elements. More than 20 Christian churches, and a central museum which surrounds one of the largest Orthodox churches with many 16th century paintings. Life never ended inside the castle and still today there are living families in their traditional houses built since XVII century. Visit Onufri Museum Part of the tour will be also Onufri Museum, situated in the Kala quarter's biggest church. Today Onufri's spectacular 16th-century religious paintings are displayed along with the church's beautifully gilded 19th-century iconostasis. The red of Onufri used in his Icons were very unique and is mysterious still today. After the guided tour of Berat have lunch in a local restaurant inside the castle. After lunch you will enjoy some free time inside the castle and have the chance to buy unique handmade souvenirs by locals.

Spend some time at Gorica Bridge which was built during XVIII Century to connects 2 neighborhoods Mangalemi and Gorica, once a time divided Mangalemi lived by Muslims and Gorica by Christians. Overnight In Berat

Day 2 Berat -Gjirokaster-Sarande (215 km - 4h)

After Breakfast transfer to Gjirokaster Visit the City of Gjirokaster

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the old town of Gjirokaster is famous for being a well-preserved Ottoman town. With its fortress overlooking the entire city, the old houses lean against the slopes of the hills with their beautiful old wooden facades. The birthplace of communist leader Enver Hoxha and notable writer Ismail Kadare, there's plenty to see in this exceptional town. Visit The castle of Gjirokaster-the most popular tourist attraction in Gjirokastër, dominates the town from up the hill. During the rule of Ali Pasha, the castle was a military fortress, while in the Second World War it served as a shelter for the city residents against aerial bombing. The castle's prison was used extensively by Zog's government and housed political prisoners during the more recent Communist regime.

After the visit of the Castle have lunch in a local restaurant

Visit Skenduli House The lovingly restored Ottoman-era Skenduli House has been in the hands of the same family for generations and you'll most likely be shown around by a member of the family. Dating from the early 1700s, the house has many fascinating features. The guide, which is the 9 th generation will explain you all about life style during centuries.

Have some free time in the bazaar After transfer to Saranda.

On the way visit Blue Eye

The Blue Eye is a water spring with extremely light blue water bubbles in a more than 50-metre deep pool. You'll be mesmerized by how clear the water is, to the point that you'll be able to see straight to the bottom. Visit Saranda considered as the unofficial capital of the Albanian Riviera, a city plenty of things to see and do, especially in summertime when it gives its best. Saranda is one of the favored destinations by Albanians to spend their holidays. Here, you can walk admiring the gorgeous sea views or sit at a bar, order a coffee and relax. Visit the synagogue -These ruins of a 5th-century synagogue are located right in the heart of town and provide evidence of one of the earliest Balkan-Jewish communities. There are four floor mosaics here, which are normally covered with sand to protect them, though photos are provided on the walls.

Transfer to Lekursi Castle Visit Lekursi Castle

Its strategic position on a hill of about 300 meters in height as well as its panoramic views of Saranda, the Butrint Lagoon and even the island of Corfu, make this destination a tourist favorite. Not to mention that, inside the fortress, you will find one of the best-known bars and restaurants in Saranda which also offers the most beautiful view of the sunset. Have a wonderful evening enjoying authentic Iso-Polyphonic Song show and delicious four-course dinner. The meal is served in a superb restaurant located in one on top of the castle. Albanian iso-polyphony is a traditional part of Albanian folk music and, as such, is included in UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage list.



Day 3 Sarande - Butrint - Llogara Nationalk Park-Vlore (233km - 4h)

Meet with the local guide and transfer to Butrint National Park

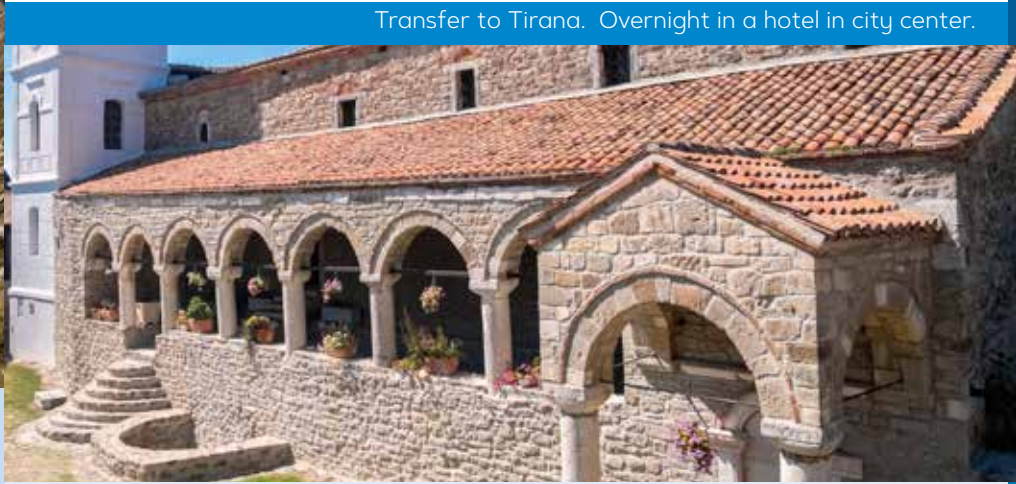
Arrive in Butrint Visit the national Park OF Butrint
Of the countless antique ruins and landmarks of Albania, Butrint is the one most responsible for putting Albania on the map. Butrint's glorious 2500-year-old ruins, are some of the most well-preserved in Europe. In 1992, Butrint was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO and it sits comfortably at the top of every international list of must-sees in Albania. What is especially wonderful about Butrint is that its many gorgeous, well-preserved monuments reflect each distinct stage of its rich history, starting from the Hellenistic period and continuing on to the Roman, Byzantine and Venetian periods. Each has left its own beautiful trace on this place!
Have lunch at Mussel's House Restaurant
The Mussel House Restaurant is a beautiful and relaxing restaurant near Butrint Lake where you can enjoy a delicious lunch or dinner with family and friends. Fresh seafood and mussels straight from the water to your table. Friendly staff and prices for all budgets. At the Mussel House everyone feels like in his own house!
After lunch transfer to Llogara National Park.

On the way we will have a few stops to take some nice pictures of the Albanian Riviera Beauty.
Arrive in Llogara and taste a cafe with the view or riviera or taste a yogurt with honey, a traditional dish by locals
Visit Llogara NATIONAL Park Where the Adriatic and the Ionian Seas meet, begins the journey towards the Llogara National Park. The lush forests of pines and oaks are only the beginning of this "mountain of panoramas," which is beautifully surrounded by numerous mountain ranges and the majestic Ionian Sea.

It was there where Julius Caesar asked for help to attack and ruin the Pompeii. The road he prescribed passed through Llogara and the first place where the army set the camp was later named after him and since then it has been called 'Caesar's Pass'. From this place you can see the whole Dukat valley and the Vlora Bay.

Transfer to Vlore
The city carries historical importance to Albania as it hosted the First National Assembly, which declared the country's independence from Ottoman rule on November 28th, 1912. Vlora is the starting point of the Albanian Riviera and is one of the most frequented areas of Albanian tourism.
Visit National Museum of Independence

As the building which hosted the operations of the very first Albanian government. This museum offers the most comprehensive information regarding the most culminating events in the life of a country. It was in the famous balcony of this bright yellow, traditional house that Ismail Qemali raised the Albanian flag in 1912.



Day 4 Vlore-Apolonia Archeological Park-Ardenica Monastery -Tirane (165 km-3h)

After breakfast, transfer to Zvernek Monastery, 8 km from Vlore City. Visit Zvernek Monastery- The monastery is an impressive object of significant cultural and religious value. Its construction is thought to have occurred between the 12th and 13th centuries and, thus, boasts an architecture that is typical of the Byzantine era. To reach the monastery, you follow the charming bridge that, stretching over the water, connects the island with land.

Transfer to Apollonia Archeological park.
Arrive at the park and start the sightseeing tour with Local guide. Visit Apollonia Archeological Park- Apollonia is a gorgeous archaeological site. In the ancient times, Apollonia was one of the most important economic and trade centers of Albania and the world with a population of approx. 50,000 inhabitants. The future Roman emperor Octavian Augustus also studied in this city. The site hosts also an Orthodox monastery and an archaeological museum.

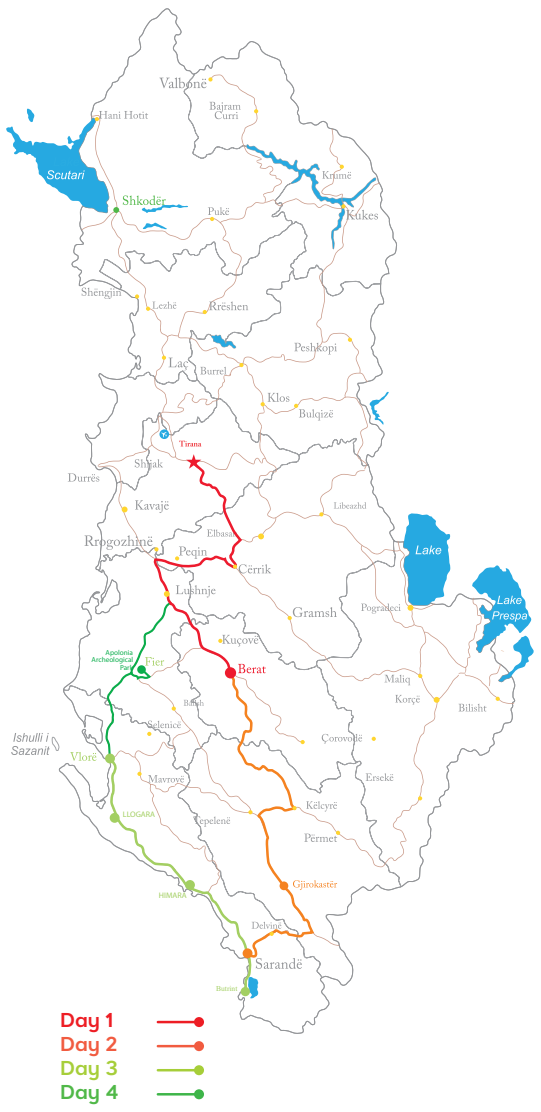
After the visit of the park have lunch nearby Ardenica Monastery and after it, visit the monastery, where Albanian National Hero got to marry there.

Transfer to Tirana. Overnight in a hotel in city center.

Day 5 Tirana -Airport (17km -30 min)

Tirana, the heart and capital of Albania, like all other capital metropolises has never -ending movement and energy. With its clubs, bars, cafes and taverns, Tirana is worth discovering by both day and night. The hospitality shown towards tourists is something that will mark your journey not only in Tirana but also all over the country. Have a walk from the main square through the boulevard and finish the tour with a visit of Bunkart 2. Visit Bunkart2-The little cousin to the main Bunk'Art, this museum, which is within a communist-era bunker and underground tunnel system below the Ministry of Internal Affairs, focuses on the role of the police and security services in Albania through the turbulent 20th century. While this might not sound especially interesting, the whole thing has been very well put together and makes for a fascinating journey behind police lines. Have a walk from the main square through the boulevard

Depends on your departure time, we can arrange some other activities



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YOUR TOUR INCLUDES:

- Accommodation in a double/twin room in hotels (3* / 4*)
- Full Board Service Transportation and transfers
- English Tour Guide for all the TRF-s and excursions
- Local guides in national and archeological parks
- All excursions and sightseeing including entrance fees Local taxes

YOUR TOUR EXCLUDES:

- Other entrance fees
- Your personal expenses
- Extra drinks

Starting from
440 €/pax



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UNESCO TOUR ITALY & ALBANIA

Day 1 Arrival at Airport of Rome

Rome, Italy is one of the great cities of the world. With its history spanning thousands of years, its monumental architecture, fabulous piazzas, colorful markets and character-filled streets, it's truly dazzling at every turn. The First day will be around Imperial Rome - the Pantheon, the Forums and the Colosseum as the highlight. The Second day will be a visit to the Vatican along with its museums, the ceiling fresco at the Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Basilica.

Excursions to Trev Fountain (the largest baroque fountain in the world. Throw a coin in Salvi's Baroque fountain and you will return to Rome)

The Pantheon (Circular ancient Roman temple with beautiful dome supported by arches)

Piazza Venezia (A large square and intersection surrounded by monuments and historic buildings)

Roman Forum (Archaeological remains of the heart of ancient Rome)

The Colosseum (Top landmark Roman Amphitheatre used for gladiator battles in the 1st century)

Palatine Hill (Rome was founded on this hill, see archaeological findings here and in the museum).

Overnight in Rome



Day 2 Vatican City

It might only cover about half a square kilometer, but the Vatican looks every inch a religious superpower. Its holy buildings are monumental in scale and its lavishly-decorated halls house some of the world's most celebrated artworks.

Breakfast at Hotel

Excursions to Vatican Gardens (featuring sculptures, fountains and a wide variety of plants)

Vatican Museums (The museums of Vatican City holding work by de Vinci, Titian, Bernini, Raphael and others)

The Sistine Chapel (Chapel within Vatican City famed for its frescos by Michelangelo)

St Peter Basilica (Michelangelo, Maderno, Bramante and Bernini created this massive Renaissance church)

St Peter Square (Bernini's expansive plaza in front of St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City)

Castel St D'Angelo (Hadrian Mausoleum is a circular tower from 139AD which served many purposes through history)

Piazza Navona (Large square on former ancient stadium featuring Fountain of the Four Horses)

Overnight in Rome



Day 3
Roma -Albania (With Plane) - Berat

Arrival at Tirana Airport and check in Hotel (Depending on flight time, we will arrange this day)

Berat weaves its own very special magic, and is easily a highlight of visiting Albania. Its most striking feature is the collection of white Ottoman houses climbing up the hill to its castle, earning it the title of ‘town of a thousand windows’ and helping it join Gjirokastra on the list of UN ESCO World Heritage sites, in 2008.

Excursions in Berat Castle (a castle overlooking the town of Berat)

Onufri Museum (a museum dedicated to Byzantine art and iconography in Berat)

Mangalemi & Gorica Quartier (get lost in the tiny streets, have a meal on one of the amazing restaurants and cafes).

Overnight in Berat.



Day 4 Berat-Gjirokastra - Sarande

Gjirokastra is love on the first sight. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the old town of Gjirokastra is famous for being a well-preserved Ottoman style town, with its fortress overlooking the entire city, the old houses lean against the slopes of the hills with their beautiful old wooden facades.

Excursion to the fortress of Gjirokastra (The first place to visit in town is the castle)

The UNESCO Old Town - (The most beautiful thing to admire in Gjirokastrë is its enchanting old town)

The Skenduli House (The most impressive building in Gjirokastrë)

Transfer to Saranda

Saranda is the unofficial capital of the Albanian Riviera, and come the summer months it seems like half of Tirana relocates here to enjoy the busy beach and busier nightlife along its crowd-filled seaside promenade.

Excursion to Butrint NP (The ruins, which are in a fantastic natural setting and are part of a 29-sq-km national park, are from a variety of periods, spanning 2500 years.)

Lekursi Castle (This former castle is now a very average restaurant, but come here for the superb views over Saranda and Butrint lagoon, especially at sunset)

The Synagogue (These ruins of a 5th-century synagogue are located right in the heart of town and provide evidence of one of the earliest Balkan-Jewish communities.)

Enjoy a delicious dinner with iso-polyphonic show.

Overnight in Saranda

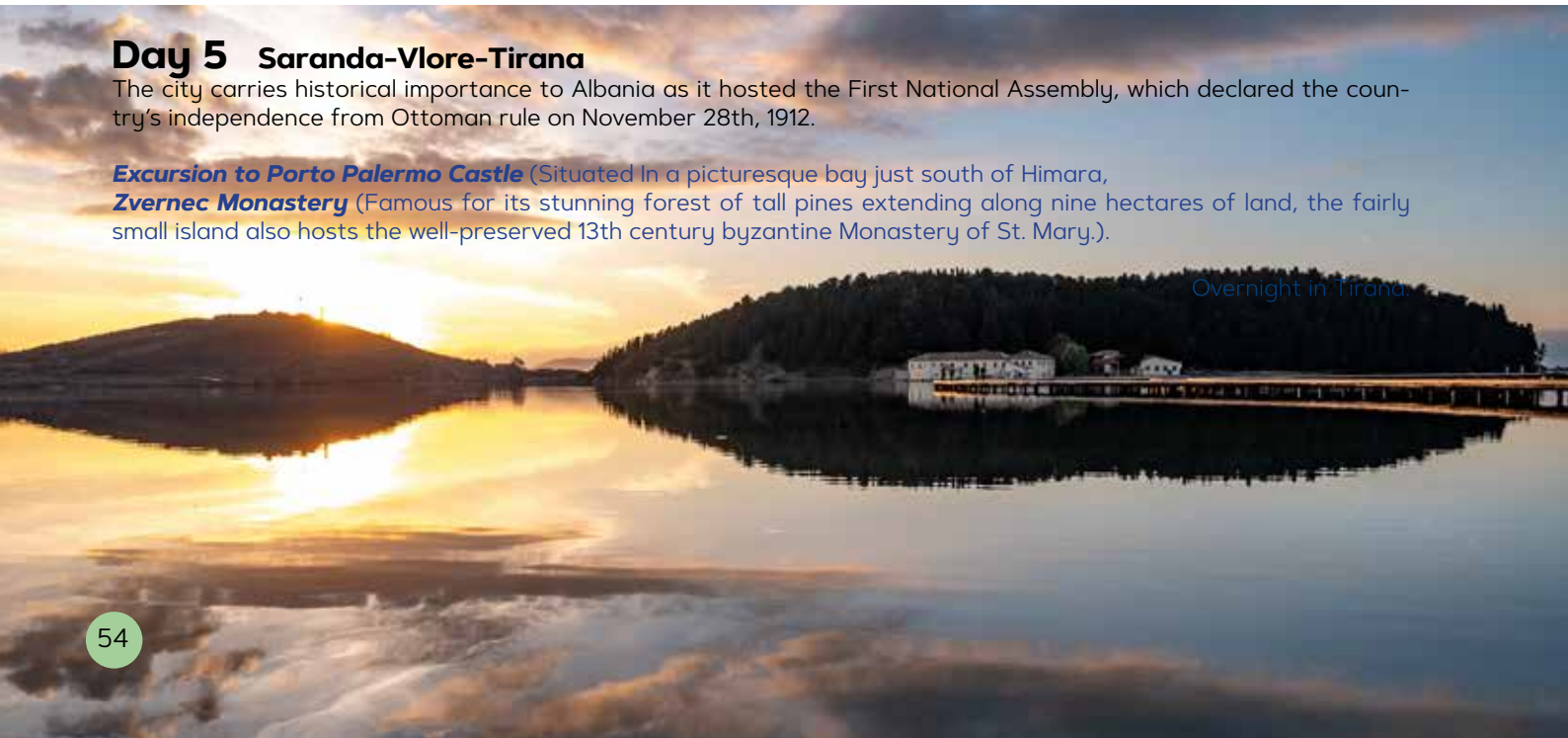


Day 5 Saranda-Vlore-Tirana

The city carries historical importance to Albania as it hosted the First National Assembly, which declared the country's independence from Ottoman rule on November 28th, 1912.

Excursion to Porto Palermo Castle (Situated In a picturesque bay just south of Himara, **Zvernec Monastery** (Famous for its stunning forest of tall pines extending along nine hectares of land, the fairly small island also hosts the well-preserved 13th century byzantine Monastery of St. Mary.).

Overnight in Tirana.



Day 6 Tirana

Lively, colorful Tirana is where this tiny nation's hopes and dreams coalesce into a vibrant whirl of traffic, brash consumerism and unfettered fun. Having undergone a transformation of extraordinary proportions since awaking from its communist slumber in the early 1990s, Tirana's center is now unrecognizable from those grey days, with buildings painted in primary colors, and public squares and pedestrianized streets that are a pleasure to wander

Excursion to Dajti National Park with Cable Car – (the first and only cableway in Albania as well as being the longest cableway in the Balkans)

Bunk Art (from a massive Cold War bunker on the outskirts of Tirana into a history and contemporary art museum – is Albania's most exciting new sight and easily a Tirana highlight)

Overnight in Tirana.

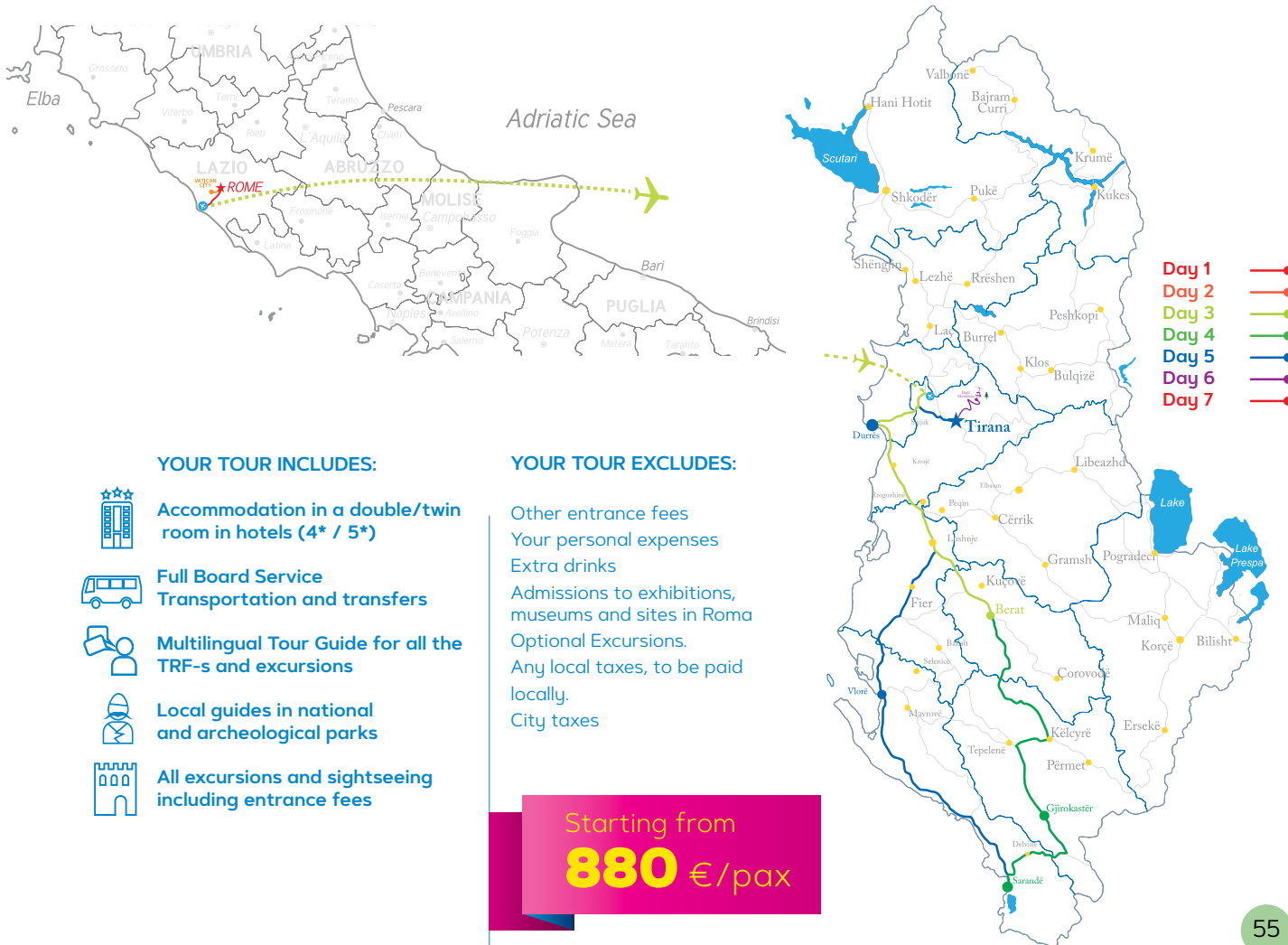


Day 7 Tirana Airport - Rome

Shopping Day at Castel Romano Designer Outlet

Castel Romano Designer Outlet is the first designer outlet in the Lazio region where you can find your favorite brands up to 70% off every day. With its architecture, cafes and restaurants, children's playground, free parking and more than 150 boutiques, the Rome's Designer Outlet offers something for everyone. We are conveniently located for easy access from Rome city center in 30-minute drive. Fiumicino and Campine Airports are also within easy reach.

Transfer to Airport.





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HIKING & ADVENTURE TOUR

Day 1 Airport-Kruja (19km-30m)

The beginning point of the tour and meeting with the guide takes place at the hotel in Kruja at 18.00 hours where you will discuss the program for the coming week. Depending on the time of arrival you can visit the Kruja Bazar and the Kruja castle, epicenter of the legendary Albanian resistance to the Ottomans led by Skanderbeg in the 14th century.

Overnight in Kruja

Day 2 The holy mountain of Sarisalltik

Hike information:



Gradient:
600m



Distance:
2.5 km



Duration:
3 hrs.

Today we will hike up the holy mountain of Tumenisht, (Sarisalltik in Ottoman), and visit the Bectasci Teqe (Sufi Dervishes Sanctuary) located at 1000m. After the descent, we will start driving north to Shkoder, the largest city of Northern Albania.

Sarisalltik is one of the most significant religious places in Albania. For the adventurous souls willing to take on the hike, the pilgrimage in Sarisalltik is a truly transformative experience, which will remain with you for a lifetime! This is where most miraculous events take place which, through generations, are passed on as legends. One of Albania's many peaks associated with its respective legend is the Sarisalltik (Sah-ree-sahl-tick), at the height of 1176m. This place marks the epicenter of dissemination of the Bektashi Order in Albania. For the Bektashi believers, climbing the mountain has a sacred meaning. The best way to understand why, is with a visit of your own. Have lunch on the way. In the afternoon we will visit the Rozafa Castle and admire the superb view of the Shkoder Lake surrounded by mountains. In the evening, we will relax at the Shkodra Lake and take a stroll around town.

Overnight: 4 stars hotel in Shkodra
Dinner: Traditional restaurant

Day 3 The lake of Koman and the canyon of Drin

Transfer information:

Car transfer:

Shkodër – Koman (42 km-1h20);
Koman-Fierzë (2,5 h ferry),
Fierzë Valbone: 40km-1h30

In the early morning, we will drive to the ferry of Koman, which goes through the spectacular canyon of the river Drin. The lake formed after the construction of the dam of Koman, in the 1980s. The journey will continue through the beautiful valley of Valbona, until we reach a traditional family guesthouse where we will stay overnight.

Overnight: Village house in Valbona,
Dinner: home-cooked meal.



Day 4 Mount Rosit - Valbone



Gradient:
1150 - 900 m



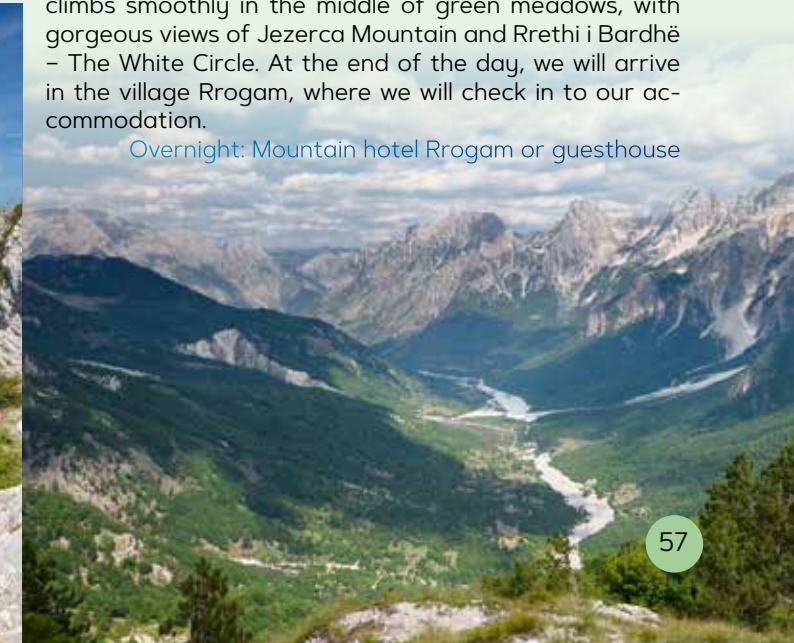
Distance:
14 km



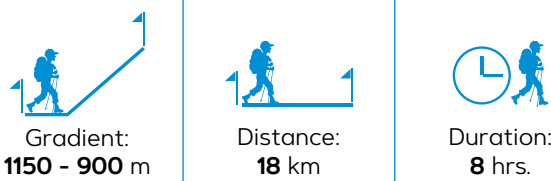
Duration:
6 hrs.

Today the trekking will start from the guesthouse in direction of the village of Kukaj (900m a.s.l.). From here, a shepherd's path will bring us to remote landscapes of the eastern Alps of Albania until reaching Qafa e Rosit (2000m a.s.l. - approx. 7-8 hours of walking). The path climbs smoothly in the middle of green meadows, with gorgeous views of Jezerca Mountain and Rrethi i Bardhë - The White Circle. At the end of the day, we will arrive in the village Rrogam, where we will check in to our accommodation.

Overnight: Mountain hotel Rrogam or guesthouse



Day 5 The Pass of Valbona -Theth



Today we will hike the classic pass of the Albanian Alps. For centuries, it linked the two most well-known valleys of the area, Valbona (Valbona pass; 1966m a.s.l) and Thethi. We will use horses to carry the luggage to the next house. Highlanders from late spring use the path daily, until the first snow of winter.

Several springs of water will make for pleasant and refreshing rest stops to admire the steep and jagged surrounding peaks of Jezerca and Radohima.

The group will start the descent towards the village of Thethi (850m a.s.l), where we will stay overnight after up to 8 hrs of walking. Thethi is the best-preserved alpine village in Albania. It has typical houses still roofed with wooden tiles and its mountain valley location is spectacular.

We will stay overnight and have dinner in one of these traditional houses and experience the unforgettable hospitality of the hosts.

Overnight: Guesthouse in Thethi

Day 6 Thethi's attractions



Today we will have a nice day walking around in the nearings of Thethi, one of the most well-known villages of northern Albania, because of its charm, stunning nature and traditional wooden-tiled houses.

We will start walking downhill from the house (850m), and visit the attractions in and around the village, like: the Church (750m), the Kulla e Ngujimit (a tower house used in the past by men as a shelter against ongoing vendettas), the Thethi Waterfall, Grunasi Canyon, and the recent 2007 discover: a cyclopean stone walled terraces dating from the late bronze era!

We will overnight at the same house as the night before.

Overnight in a Guesthouse in Thethi

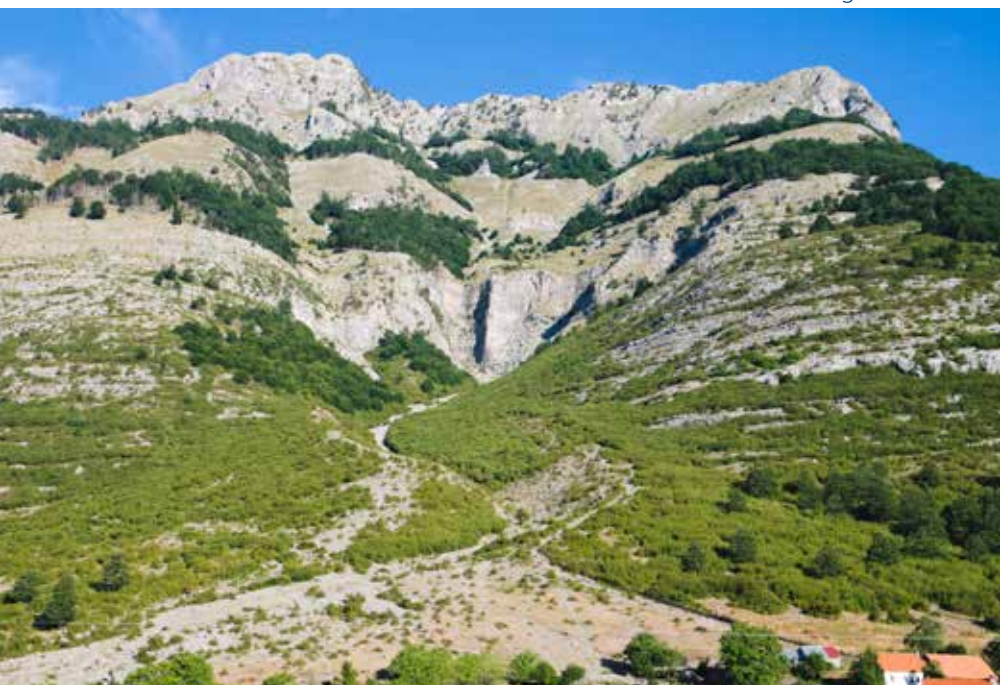


Day 7 Theth -The valley of Boga-Tirana
(180km - 4hrs).

We will leave Thethi (850m a.s.l) to start another day of spectacular view toward the village of Boga. We will use the offroads cars to transfer you at the peak of Boge Village.

We will have lunch in a lovely setting, then leave through the towards Shkoder and ending in Tirana

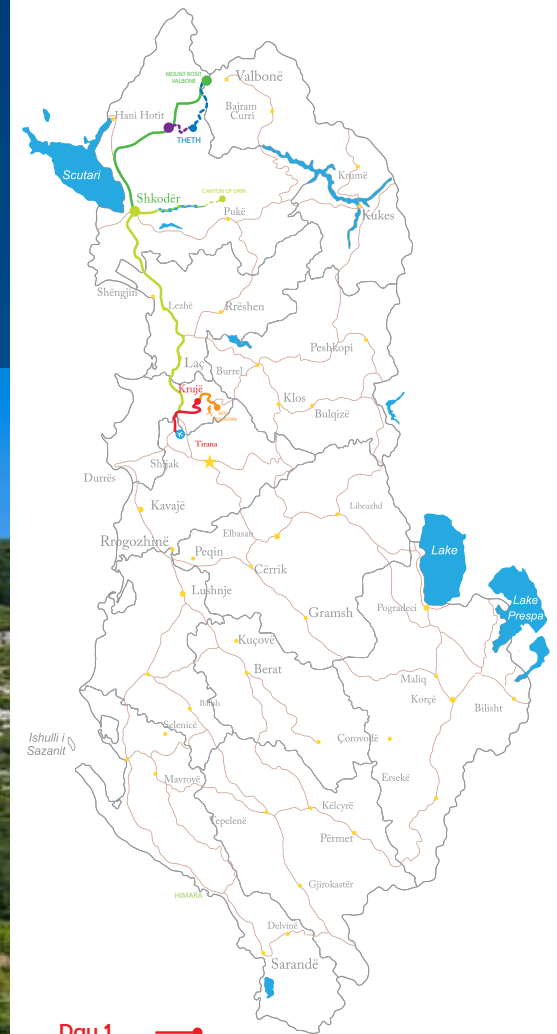
Overnight in Tirana



Day 8 Tirana

If you leave in the afternoon you will have some time to spend in Tirana where you can take a walk, passing the important buildings of the capital – the Italian buildings, The Mosque of Ethem Bej and/or the National Museum of History. Alternatively, you can enjoy your free time to visit the museum in Tirana or one of its many markets.

Depending on your departure time we will arrange Meals and Activities.



- Day 1
- Day 2
- Day 3
- Day 4
- Day 5
- Day 6
- Day 7
- Day 8

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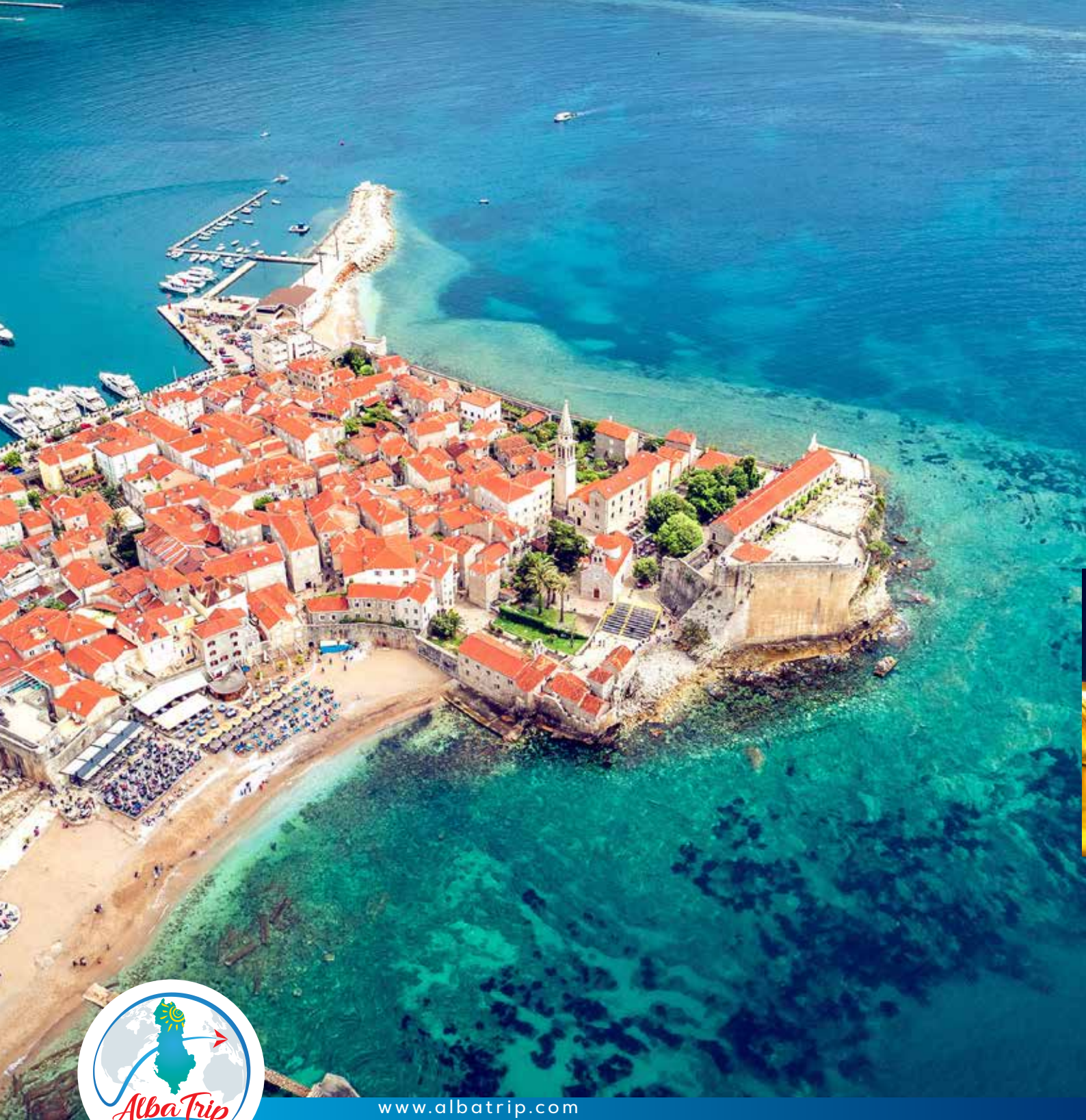
YOUR TOUR INCLUDES:

- Accommodation in a double/twin room in hotels (3* / 4*)
- Full Board Service Transportation and transfers
- Multilingual Tour Guide for all the TRF-s and excursions
- Local guides in national and archeological parks and hiking
- All excursions and sightseeing including entrance fees Local taxes

YOUR TOUR EXCLUDES:

- Other entrance fees
- Your personal expenses
- Extra drinks

Starting from
695 €/pax



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BLUE BALKAN

Day 1 - Bitola - Ohrid

After breakfast in at the hotel, check out and meet the guests and start the city tour of Skopje. Our panoramic tour will explore the old Railway station, the monument of Mother Teresa and her memorial house, the Stone Bridge, Daut Pasha Hamam – monument of the Islamic architecture, the church St. Spas, the Fortress Kale; we suggest also a short walking tour of the old town and its bazaar. Continue to Bitola.

Time for lunch in one of the traditional restaurants. Start city tour of Bitola and proceed to Heraklea site. Visit Mangolia square, statue of Philip the 2nd and the pedestrian street with an ottoman architecture feel, the Clock Tower and St Demetrius church. Proceed to Heraklea archaeological site. Discover the well-preserved ruins of the Roman baths, the baptistery and the Episcopal Church, the Jewish temple, Portico and an ancient theater.

Enjoy a relaxed walking tour along Ohrid Lake



Day 2 Ohrid - Tirana

After breakfast, check out and join the group for Ohrid city tour. The highlight of the Ohrid tour include Church of St. Sophia, St.Bogorodica Perivlepta, St.Jovan Kaneo, St.Pantelejmon – Plaosnik, Old Bazaar, Mesokastro Settlement, Kaneo Settlement, Ohrid Fortifications, King Samuel Fortress, Antique Theatre, Ohrid Traditional Architecture, Icon museum.

Enjoy lunch in one of the traditional restaurants situated in the old town. We leave Ohrid on the road toward Albania. Afternoon city tour of Tirana.

We explore the capital city of Albania, including some of the historical highlights, as city center, Skanderbeg Statue, Et'hem bey mosque, Clock tower, Italian buildings and Martyrs of the Nation Boulevard. Visit the ex-communist buildings, painted with vibrant colours and the expansion of city.

Accommodation and overnight in Tirana, 2-night stay



3 Kruja - Durres - Tirane

Breakfast in at the hotel. The City tour of Kruja. The walking tour of Kruja will take you through the cobble stone pathway of Ottoman bazaar, with wooden shops and displays of various gifts and antique household items.

Visit within the walls of the castle will include the historic museum dedicated to Scanderbeg and his resistance against the Ottoman invasion. An old house turned to an ethnographic museum will invite you to a unique cultural aspect of life in northern Albania.

Lunch at Panorama restaurant near the Bazaar. City tour of Durres. Explore the ruins of the town forum, the Roman baths, the city center, the Town Hall, the Roman Amphitheatre, the Byzantine walls, the Venetian tower and archaeological museum, a panoramic display of discoveries and urban planning of this once an important city.

Back to Tirana. Walk on your own along the castle walls to Tanners Bridge.



Day 4 Tirana – Prizren – Decan Monastery – Peje

After breakfast, check out and get on board toward Prizren in the newly created state of Kosovo.

Visit the old town of Prizren. Discover Prizren the cradle of cultural wealth of Kosovo people. The walking tour will explore the Old town with its Ottoman bridge, water fountain, their unique mosques and orthodox churches. The city is known for its rich culinary tradition, mainly home-made products and dishes. Lunch in the old town. Visit at Decan Monastery. Visoki Decani Monastery, the first cultural monument on the territory of Kosovo, to be inscribed in the list of UNESCO World Heritage has long been known as one of the architecturally most interesting and best-preserved Serbian medieval churches. Continue to Pej. Visit the city center, walk the main promenade, where local folks gather for an evening chat over a coffee or tea cup. Accommodation and overnight in Peje.



Day 5 Pristina – Novi Pazaar

After breakfast, check out and get on board towards Pristine and Novi Pazar. Explore the main highlights of Kosovo capital city, visiting the National Museum, a UNESCO World Heritage site, the Statue of Skanderbeg, the National Theatre, the Statue of Mother Teresa, the University area, the colossal ‘NEWBORN’ sign and The National Public Library. Lunch in city center of Novi Pazar. Old city center consists of a couple of picturesque streets with somewhat exotic Ottoman air. Houses are mostly small, old-fashioned, hosting numerous craftsmen’s and merchants’ shops. City core isn’t big and can be thoroughly surveyed on a slow half hour’s walk. One of the oldest and most interesting structures is Amir-Aga’s Han. In the afternoon we’ll proceed with the sightseeing tour of the city. Novi Pazar boasts the oldest religious monument in these parts. It is the Peter’s Church, where the important Serbian saint, St. Sava, was christened. Accommodation and overnight in Novi Pazaar.



Day 6 Novi Pazar – Zlatibor – Mokra Gora – Sarajevo

After breakfast, check out and get on board towards Zlatibor and Mokra Gora. Sightseeing tour of Sirogojno. Visit of the Old Village Museum, followed by lunch. Learn about the Sargan 8; Board the train in Sargan Eight village station and enjoy this exceptional railroad ride, its winding curves and tunnels. Upon arrival in Mokra Gora, a brief sightseeing tour of the train station. Board the bus and we continue toward the Bosnian border. Check in at the hotel in Sarajevo. Join everyone for a short walking stroll along the Miljacka River. Accommodation and overnight in Sarajevo.



Day 7 Sarajevo Breakfast in at the hotel.

Full day city tour. Sarajevo is one of the most oriental and culturally diverse cities in Europe, and had spent over 300 years under Turkish rule until the Austro-Hungarians arrived in the late nineteenth century. The empire collapsed 50 years later when Archduke Ferdinand was assassinated here, hastening the outbreak of the First World War. The late twentieth century saw Sarajevo host the Winter Olympics in 1984, and the long siege of the city during the recent conflict.

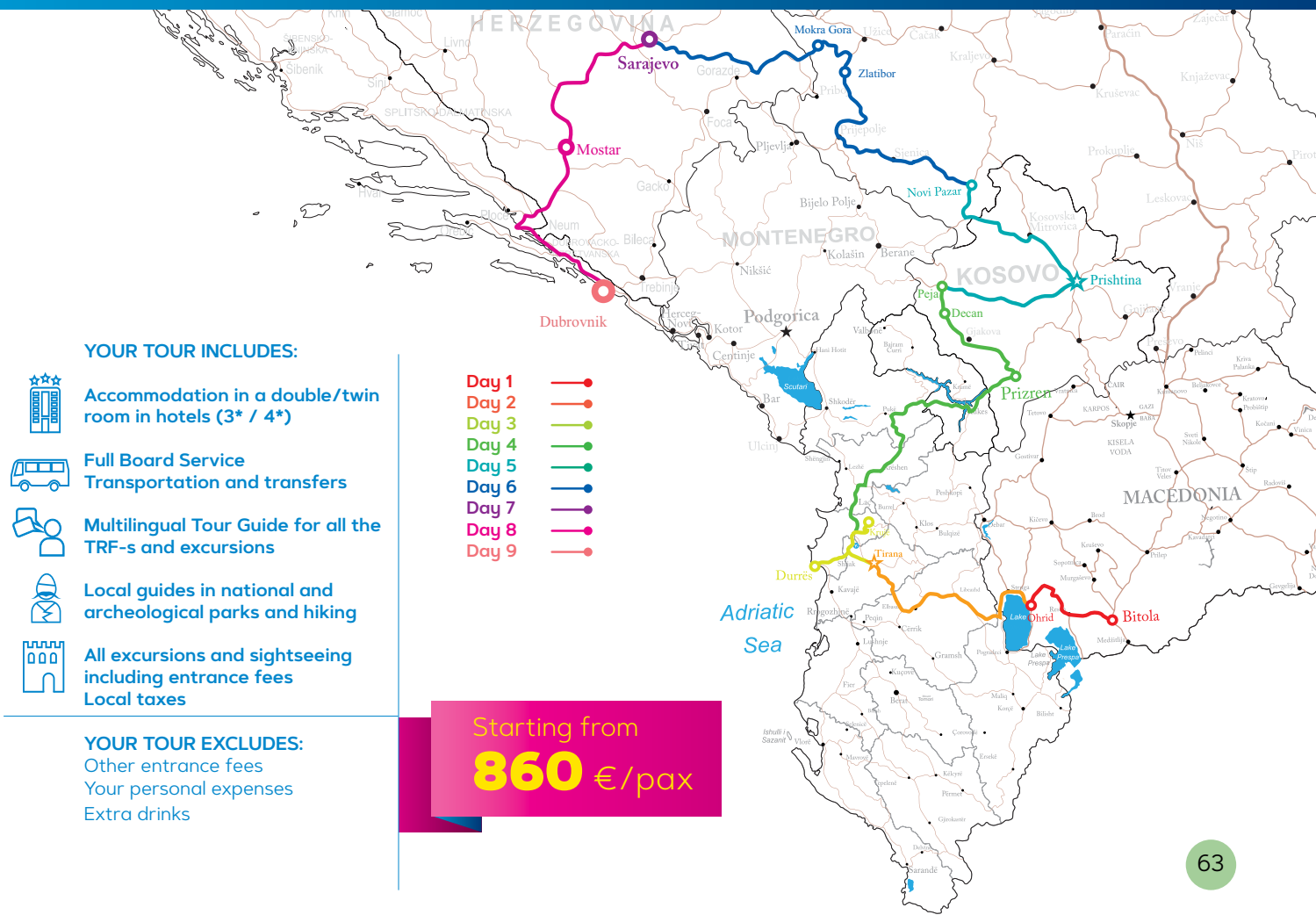
Day 8 Sarajevo – Mostar – Dubrovnik

After breakfast, check out and get on board the bus riding to Mostar and Dubrovnik. In Mostar our guided city tour will include visits of Bishop’s building, the Early Christian Basilica – Cim, the Public Turkish Bath (hammam), the Clock Tower, the Synagogue and Jewish Memorial Cemetery, Metropolitan Palace, Karadjoz-Beg Mosque, Orthodox Church, Catholic Church and Franciscan Monastery, Ottoman Residences, Crooked Bridge, Tara and Halebija Towers. Optional lunch in Mostar. Late afternoon explores Dubrovnik by walking..

Day 9 Dubrovnik

Breakfast in at the hotel. Known also as the “Pearl of the Adriatic”, the historical Dubrovnik offers a range of attractions. Our walking tour will take you by the old harbor, Franciscan monastery, St. Laurence Fortress, Sponza and Rector’s Palaces, Bell Tower Clock and Orlando’s Column. Time for lunch in Dubrovnik. Transfer to Airport for your afternoon flight.

End of tour.



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JEEP TOURS



FOLK SHOW



HIKING



RAFTING



KAYAKING



DIVING



BOAT TRIP





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Years of experience with more than 800 hotels in all Albania, has created the opportunity for Alba Trip to expand our goals as a company and to offer products with the highest quality and services with renowned professionalism.

The company's operation is built up on the support of "ÇELËSI" Group, a leader company in Albania with 20 years of experience, in terms of information accessibility for business and customers.

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The guarantee of saving time: we are specialists in the incoming for Albania since 2011, we have an in-depth knowledge of the market and the culture of the regions we operate, and we have a proven practice in the negotiation and the optimization of our suppliers' services.

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We are especially proud of our selection of tours around Balkans. Whether you want to make a multi-day trip through the Balkans or just enjoy a fascinating 3-hour walking tour in Albania, with us you will always find what you are looking for.

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We understand that there is no unique way to make a perfect journey that everyone will like because each person has his special needs and desires. We always listen to you first and then suggest the travel solution that is the best for you. From first contact, through the duration of your stay, and until you are safely home again, we are with you.

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Since we began in 2011, we've created unforgettable travel experiences in the Balkan region for thousands of clients from all over the world. Our staff members have extensive and firsthand knowledge of the region and are passionate about what they do.

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It is vital to us that you have a memorable and authentic experience with our holidays. In line with the expectations we have for our staff, we select only local suppliers that are friendly, reputable and have in-depth local knowledge.

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AlbaTrip is an insured and fully licensed tour operator approved by the local authorities. And as members of various travel industry associations, we are held up to a high level of standards and practices. If you want a firsthand account of how we operate, just take a look at our customer reviews!

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