

EXPLORE BALKAN COUNTRIES ALBANIA, MACEDONIA AND KOSOVO!



DAY 01: TIA AEROPORT - TIRANA

DAY 02: TIRANA - BERAT - OHRID

DAY 03: OHRID

DAY 04: OHRID-BITOLA – SKOPJE

DAY 05: SKOPJE – MATKA - PRIZREN

DAY 06: PRIZREN-DECANE MONASTERY – PEJA

DAY 07: PEJA – BAJRAM CURRI – KOMAN- SHKODER

DAY 08: SHKODER – THETH – SHKODER

DAY 09: SHKODER – KRUJE

DAY 10: KRUJE - AEROPORT

DAY 01: TIA AIRPORT - TIRANA

Upon arrival in airport you will be welcome from local guide or driver and transfer to Tirana (20 min). In this day you will explore the vibrant city of Tirana.

Tirana, the heart and capital of Albania, like all other European metropolises has a never-ending movement and energy. The journey might begin by visiting the key spots such as Sheshi Skënderbej, Mosque of Et'hem Bey (built between 1798 and 1812), the 35 m high Kulla e Sahatit (the Watch Tower), castle of the Roman emperor Justinian (A.D. 520), the monumental Tomb of Kapllan Pasha and the Ura e Tabakëve. A visit to the National History Museum, the Archeological Museum, and the National Gallery of the Arts will leave wonderful memories.

Cultural Heritage

- National History Museum
- Watch Tower
- Monumental Tomb of Kapllan Pasha
- Ura e Tabakëve
- Mosque of Et'hem Bey

Check in Hotel, accommodation and overnight



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DAY 02: TIRANA - BERAT - OHRID

Breakfast in the hotel.

In the morning transfer to Berat (2.5 h)

Visit Berat: *The 2,413 years-old city known as Antipatrea, is under the protection of UNESCO. Berat is a treasure-trove of Albanian history, culture and a testament to the country's tradition of religious harmony. The three major neighborhoods of the old city are Mangalemi, Gorica, and Kala, where the castle itself is located and is made unique by the fact that people continue to live inside of it. The post-Byzantine monumental Cathedral of Shën Maria (Saint Mary) today houses a museum of works by the famous iconographers of the 16th century: Onufri and his son Nikolla. There are over 100 icons on display and they also include works of other artists such as Joan Çetiri, Onufër Qiprioti and many anonymous painters. Ottomans occupation has left its mark as well.*



Cultural Heritage

- **Castle of Berat**
- **Onufri Museum**

Afternoon transfer to Ohrid, Macedonia.

If time permit short visit of Elbasan city .

ELBASAN: *Located at the Shkumbini River, where it crosses the famous Egnatia Road, the city of Elbasani – ancient Scampini. In ancient times, Scampini was a typical Roman fortification, but in the 4th century it received a new administrative status and, with its new name Hiscampis, it became one of the major cities of the new Epirus, home of the area's only Roman legion. Today, tourists can visit the Church of Saint Mary, the King Mosque (inside the city walls), the Mosque of Naziresha (very rare because of its feminine name), and the Ethnographic Museum, the newly discovered basilica and the Turkish bath (hammam).*

Arrival Ohrid check in Hotel, accommodation and overnight



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DAY 03: OHRID - Monastery "St. Naum: - Ohrid

After breakfast visit Ohrid -Situating on the shores of Lake Ohrid, the town of Ohrid is one of the oldest human settlements in Europe. Built mainly between the 7th and 19th centuries, it has the oldest Slav monastery (St Pantelejmon) and more than 800 Byzantine-style icons dating from the 11th to the end of the 14th century. After those of the Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow, this is considered to be the most important collection of icons in the world.

Cultural Heritage

- **The Ohrid Fortress of Tzar Samuel**
- **St. Kliment's Monastery at Plaosnik**
- **The Church of St.Sophia**
- **The Church of St. Jovan Bogoslov at Kaneo**

After the visit we will get the boat to St. Naum monastery, during the way will be possible to admire the museum in the water

Monastery "St. Naum"- Set amidst lush verdure where the River Crn Drim tumbles into the lake, the monastery of St. Naum is a refuge of tranquility at the very southwestern corner of the Macedonian Republic. The monastic complex and church of St. Naum were built originally at the turn of the tenth century by the monk that beared the same name; Macedonians believe you can still hear the saint's heartbeat by pressing an ear to his stone coffin inside the church. **In the afternoon back in Ohrid. Accommodation and overnight**



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DAY 04: OHRID –BITOLA - SKOPJE

Breakfast in the hotel.

Check out, and transfer to Bitola (2 h)

Bitola historically known as Monastir or Manastir is a city in the southwestern part of the Republic of Macedonia. It has been known since the Ottoman period as "the city of the consuls", since many European countries have consulates in Bitola. Bitola is one of the oldest cities on the territory in the Republic of Macedonia. It was founded as Heraclea Lyncestis in the middle of the 4th century BC by Philip II of Macedon. During the Ottoman rule the city together with Salonica were the two reigning cities of Ottoman Rumelia.

Ancient town "Heraclea Lyncestis" -Famous for its dazzling mosaics, ancient theater and Roman baths, Heraclea is the most vividly preserved city from the surviving Ancient Macedonian Empire in the country. Heraclea Lyncestis was an ancient Macedonian city situated 2 km south of the present-day town of Bitola, Republic of Macedonia. It was founded by Philip II of Macedon in the middle of the 4th century BC, after he had conquered the surrounding region of Lyncestis and incorporated it into his kingdom of Macedon. The city was named in honor of the mythological Greek hero Heracles. The epithet Lyncestis means "the Land of the Lynx" in Greek.

Later transfer to Skopje, Macedonia capital (3h)

Check in Hotel, accommodation and overnight



DAY 05: SKOPJE – MATKA - PRIZREN

Breakfast in the hotel.

Today we explore the capital city

SKOPJE - lays in the heart of the Balkan Peninsula, at the crossroad of important communications, a city with a 2000 years old tradition. Skopje is a very attractive tourist destination with its fortress, cultural and historical monuments, archaeological sites, sport halls, caves in the canyon of the River Treska and Lake Matka and a health spa in the eastern part of the city. The town with the beautiful quay of the Macedonian river "Vardar", the narrow streets



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in the Old Bazaar which is the biggest bazaar preserved in the Balkans today, the town is internationally famous for being the birthplace of Mother Teresa.

Then drive to Mata canyons (45 min)

The tour starts with a visit to the Monastery of Matka dedicated to the Dormition of the Most Holy Mother of God, a religious festival celebrated on 28th August every year. The monastery is located on the left bank of the River Treska and was built around 1337. Then we continue to walk along the bank of the River Treska – which is famous for the competitions in kayaking that take place on it. We follow the path that goes by the dam and the man-made lake Matka and we reach the Monastery of St. Andrew.

In the afternoon transfer to Prizren, Kosovo.

Check in Hotel, accommodation and overnight



DAY 06: PRIZREN–DECANE MONASTERY – PEJA

After the breakfast visit Prizren.

Prizren -During history it was known as Theranda, a name which belongs to town of Suhareka nowadays.

During the 11th century it was known as an important urban settlement. In 1019, its mentioned as headquarters of Byzantine Empire Church. During Serbian rule (12th till 14th century), the region became inhabited by Slavic population. Prizren holds a crucial role in the history of the Albanian National Movement; it was also the host of the Albanian Union of Prizren, established on July 10, 1878. **Among the most visited are:** Shatirvan Square, the Fortress and the surrounding compounds, Church of Saint Premta, Church of Saint Saviour, Bajrakli Mosque, Safi Sinan Pasha Mosque, city's Hamams (Turkish public baths), city's water sources, Stone Bridge and a large number of traditional folkloric houses, inherited through centuries.

On the way to Peja visit Decani Monastery.

Decane Monastery -One of Kosovo's absolute highlights, this ancient monastery is in an incredibly beautiful spot beneath the mountains and surrounded by a forest of pine and chestnut trees.

Afternoon arrive and visit Peja.



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Peja - Located at the foot of the impressive mountain Bjeshket e Nemuna, the city has been ruled by different dominating powers throughout history, giving it a diverse cultural character. The Orthodox influence has resulted in the construction of impressive religious sites and monasteries. UNESCO world heritage site is Peć Patriarchate. Under Ottoman rule Peja/Peć took on a more oriental character with the construction of narrow streets, old-style Turkish houses and mosques, one of these is the Bajrakli Mosque.

Check in Hotel, accommodation and overnight



DAY 07: PEJA – BAJRAM CURRI – KOMAN- SHKODER

Today we will have early departure and it is worth it.

Check out hotel and transfer to north part of Albania through Morin border. If time permit before getting ferry from Fierza to Koman a BUS TOUR to beautiful Valbona valley national park would be suggested.

Valbona Valley National Park, also called the "Albanian miracle of the Alps", offers clean air, high and characteristic mountain peaks, lakes, numerous water resources, forests, mountains, flora and fauna.

After that transfer to Fierza ferry terminal.



Ferry schedule is not published yet but considering 2018 season departure was 12:00 (group must be at least 30 min before for embarking)

It takes 2.5 h ferry ride from Fierza to Koman

Koman lake it is a reservoir that was created by a hydroelectric project in the 1970s. this ride will leave you in awe as you tug on through the narrow, rocky cliffs and mountains surrounded by nothing but untouched, wild beauty and as it widens, the occasional farmhouse or small village. The water is so glassy and reflective.

Afternoon arrival in Shkodra

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DAY 08: SHKODER – THETH – SHKODER

Breakfast in hotel.

Today you will have another unforgettable experience. We will bring you in the heart of Albanian Alps, exactly in Theth.

Driving there by local minivans because of bad road is the first adventure for today.

Upon arrival a short visit of the village of Theth when we will arrive. Another interesting place that tourists don't miss to visit, is the "Kulla" (tower) of Theth, that gives you an idea of the kind of life those condemned by their family ties would lead as they waited, protected, during a blood feud. Program continue with a 20 minutes of walking by visiting the canyon and the Grunas waterfall, which by is the natural monument under state protection, 30 meters high, that all its water derives entirely from a rock and snow water.

Depending on group request another place to be visited, is the Blue Eye. A moderate hike is needed to reach this wonderful spring formed by the erosion of the cliff by the river, where some bathtubs and waterfalls are created, which are the most beautiful sights in Albania. From the place where the Jeeps can reach, until to the Blue Eye is a pedestrian route and takes about 40 minutes for the person who walks with a normal walking. The Blue Eye is one of the rare beauties of the entire Albania. It is formed from the Black River, which flow out from the Black Top.



After the exploration of the interesting village of the northern Alps of Albania, we turn back in Shkodra.

Check in Hotel, accommodation and overnight

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DAY 09: SHKODER – KRUJE

After breakfast in hotel Visit Shkodra.

Shkodra- known as the “capital of north Albania” is one of the oldest cities in the country, founded in the 4th century B.C. as the center of the Labeat tribe of Illyrians. Shkodra’s main tourist attraction is Rozafa Castle. Rising majestically upon a rocky hill west of the city, the outcroppings and battlements paint a blazing picture against the setting sun. It is surrounded by the waters of three rivers; the Drini, Buna, and Kiri. **Rozafa Castle**- The most important monument to visit in Shkodra is the Rozafa Castle, which rises from a rocky hill to the west of Shkodra. The waters of three rivers, Buna, Drini and Kiri, surround it. Rozafa is one of the major castles in Albania and the most important tourist attraction in Shkodra. The castle dates back to the Illyrians, when the Latin historian Titus Livius named it “the stronghold of the Labeates,” an Illyrian tribe on the shores of Shkodra Lake. The Illyrian queen, Teuta, used it as a base in the war against Rome.



Afternoon drive visit the city of Kruja

KRUJA: is a medieval town located 32 km northwest of Tirana and 20 minutes from Tirana international Airport. In Kruja you can visit national ethnographic museum and Skanderbeg museum, both located in Kruja castle. It was from this fortress that Albania’s hero – George Kastrioti Skanderbeg – defended the country from Ottoman invasion over a period spanning three decades. From the castle you have views of the Adriatic Sea. Kruja is one of Albania’s most important and popular tourist attractions.



Check in Hotel, accommodation and overnight

DAY 10: KRUJE – AEROPORT

After breakfast transfer to Airport: (you should be 2 h before flight)

End of our service!

Thank you for traveling with us!

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