

Hiking the Heart of the Balkans

OFF THE BEATEN PATH IN ALBANIA, KOSOVO & MONTENEGRO



Wilderness Travel

Overview



TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

- Length:** 10 days
Arrive: Tirana, Albania
Depart: Tirana, Albania
Lodging: 9 nights hotels and simple guesthouses
Meals: All meals included
Activity: Hiking & Trekking, Limited Edition

Trip Level: 1 2 3 ④ 5 6

Moderate to strenuous hike, 4 to 10 miles a day, elevations below 7,500 feet, most trails are packed dirt but some can have large rocks or loose scree, rugged road travel

QUESTIONS?

Our Area Specialists are your single point of contact and would be happy to answer any questions about your trip!

800.368.2794 | 510.558.2488

HIGHLIGHTS

- Witness the spectacular alpine landscapes of Valbona and Theth national parks
- Follow trails through the jaw-dropping scenery of Montenegro's stunning Grebaja Valley
- Hike on Mt. Trekufiri (7,762'), the three-border peak, and cross into Montenegro on foot
- Visit the 14th century Visiko Decani Monastery, an awe-inspiring World Heritage Site
- Savor the cuisine at Mrizi I Zanave, Albania's organic Slow Food restaurant

Introduction



LIMITED EDITION ADVENTURES

This is a Limited Edition adventure-which means a unique trip we've never run before or offer only every few years. Led by our most experienced Trip Leaders, these journeys often take place in remote destinations with only the most basic infrastructure for tourism. If you see a Limited Edition trip scheduled for this year, now is the time to sign up, as spaces fill very early and the trip may not be back for a while! Planned daily activities and actual timings may vary due to local conditions or the discretion of your Trip Leader-it is important to bring your spirit of adventure for these special exploratory journeys!

TRIP DATES

June 9-18, 2024
June 7-16, 2025
Sep 13-22, 2025

Discover an alpine paradise on one of the last frontiers of Europe! The steep Albanian Alps stretch across Albania, Kosovo, and Montenegro, rising to nearly 9,000 feet and graced with glacial lakes, rock pinnacles, ancient beech forests, and quaint stone villages. We'll hike in Albania's Valbona National Park and Theth National Park, explore Kosovo's historic town of Gjakova, once a stop on the Silk Road, and hike in Montenegro's Grbaja Valley, an awe-inspiring cirque in the Western Balkans. Along the way, cultural delights abound, including a visit to Giacov, with its Ottoman-era bazaar and lunch at a family homestead in the Serbian enclave of Velika Hoca. Overnights are in simple hotels and mountain lodges.

Itinerary



Overnight: Hotel Cocja

The boutique Hotel Cocja has a great location on a quiet side street next to the walking district of historic Shkodër. Guest rooms are spacious and stylish, and there is a lovely courtyard for enjoying breakfast.

Meals: L, D

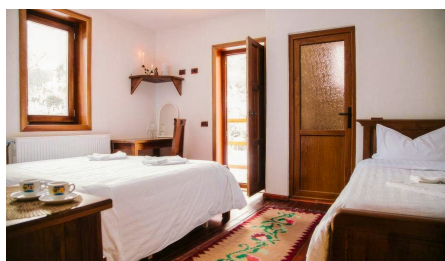
Driving Time: 2.5 hours

DAY 1 TIRANA / SHKODËR

Welcome to the Balkans! In Tirana, Albania's capital, we meet the Trip Leader this morning at the Rogner Hotel and set out for a walking tour of Tirana. We'll head to the new bazaar (green market) then continue toward Blloku, which holds monuments of various eras, from the Ottoman-era Ethem Bey mosque to the Brutalist buildings of the Communist period-and now the skyscrapers of capitalism. After lunch at a restaurant, we drive to charming Shkodër, Albania's more traditional capital and one of Europe's oldest cities. The city is nestled along stunning Lake Shkodër and known as the gateway to the Albanian Alps. The 14th century Rozafa Castle is perched above the lake and we'll stop there for views (weather permitting). Afterwards, we gather for our Welcome Dinner. For those who are up for a walk after dinner, we can immerse ourselves in the Albanian evening tradition of *xhiro*, similar to Italy's *passeggiata* or Spain's *paseo*, a pleasant dinnertime walk to see and be seen between bustling cafes and bars.

Note: You must arrive in Tirana for an overnight the day before the trip starts. We can book rooms for you at our group hotel if requested (an "on your own" expense).

Itinerary



Overnight: Rezidenca B & B

This simple 12-room guesthouse in the Valbona Valley is surrounded by craggy mountains and has the feel of a Swiss chalet. Guest rooms are spread out on four floors, and each has a private balcony. The staff is kind and helpful.

Meals: B, L, D

Hiking Details: 4 miles, 2.5 hours, 800 feet ascent/150 feet descent

Driving Time/Boating Time: 3.5 hours/2 hours

DAY 2 KOMANI LAKE / VALBONA NATIONAL PARK

Leaving Shkodër, we make a scenic drive on a pot-holed road along the gorges of the Drin River to fjord-like Komani Lake, a picturesque reservoir surrounded by sheer rock walls. We'll board a public ferry here for a two-hour ride, with magnificent views across the turquoise waters below towering rock faces. On the other side of the lake, we drive further into the mountains for a warm-up hike along a crystalline stream through ancient beech forests. If the water level is too high, we'll instead hike up to a viewpoint in the upper valley. The jagged peaks towering above us give us a preview of what we'll see in the days to come. The Albanian Alps are also known as the Accursed Mountains, and one explanation for that curious name is that local people thought the jagged glacial karst landscape had been created in a day by a mischievous devil, while another explanation is that it's a name given by the weary Slavic soldiers who had to cross these steep peaks. We'll enjoy a hearty dinner and overnight in the Rezidenca B&B, our home for three nights in the sublime mountain setting of Valbona National Park.

The Balkans: The Balkan Peninsula forms the rift between what was once known as the Occident and the Orient, the line between Western Europe and the Ottoman world. Vibrant, modern cities like Tirana contrast sharply with historic medieval towns, and rural areas where time moves at a slower speed. Visitors often note the fascinating changes they experience in the lively mix of peoples and tradition.

Itinerary



Overnight: Rezenca B & B

Meals: B, L, D

Hiking Details: 6 miles, 5 hours, 2,150 feet ascent/descent

Driving Time: 1.5 hours

DAY 3 CEREM / MT. KOLATA / VALBONA NATIONAL PARK

We drive up into the mountains of Valbona National Park on a bumpy road built during the 41-year rule of the Communist-era leader Enver Hoxha. For almost 50 years, nobody was allowed to enter this mountain realm without special permission, but today we'll enjoy a beautiful hike across flower-carpeted meadows and beech forests right to the now-open border with Montenegro. Mt. Kolata (8,313'), the highest peak in Montenegro, provides breathtaking views along the way. Local people still live among these peaks, in harmony with nature as humankind did many years ago, and along the trail, we'll visit a family in their mountain home. After reaching Bor Pass, which separates the Western Alps from the Eastern Alps, we'll descend from our hike, stopping for some highland hospitality at a guesthouse before returning to our hotel.

Peaks of the Balkans Trail: Almost all of our hikes take place on this long-distance trail that links three countries and four national parks. The origin of the Peaks of the Balkans Trail started with the Balkans Peace Park Project, launched by a British NGO after the Kosovo War in 1999. The goal of the project was to unite the local communities across borders through a common goal and interest. This was picked up by the German Development Cooperation (GIZ) in 2013, and assisted by a number of local tourism organizations and hiking clubs (including our Trip Leader, Vlatko!) to officially turn it into the Peaks of the Balkans trail.

Itinerary



Overnight: Rezeridenca B & B

Meals: B, L, D

Hiking Details: 6 miles, 4.5 hours, 2,050 feet ascent/descent

Driving Time: 30 minutes

DAY 4 VALBONA NATIONAL PARK / KUKAJ

A short drive takes us to the trailhead and as we start our hike, we'll see some of the concrete bunkers built during Enver Hoxha's rule. Our winding path quickly climbs through lush meadows ablaze with flowers to a simple shepherd's hut above the treeline. During the Communist era, this was a no-go area and the hut was a military barrack. Up here, we can admire the wild and romantic mountain scenery of the Valbona Valley. We have the option to hike higher to an ancient crossing at 6,610 feet on the Montenegrin border, where a weathered border pyramid is the only reminder of Albania's four-decade-long isolation. Clouds permitting, we should have vistas across the most dramatic parts of Montenegro's mountains, including the Albanian Alps' highest peak, Jezerca (8,838'). We'll descend the isolated hamlet of Kukaj, with a visit to one of the families that resides here before returning to the hotel. Tonight we can admire the alpenglow from the hotel's veranda at dinner.

Albanian Isolationism: After World War Two, Albania's authoritarian ruler, Enver Hoxha, shut the mountainous country off from the outside world for four decades, banning all religion and international travel. He was convinced that the rest of the world wanted to overthrow his Communist rule, so had 500,000 concrete bunkers built in case of attack. During this time, Albania was considered by many to be the "North Korea of Europe."

Itinerary



Overnight: Hotel Happy

With 13 guest rooms, Hotel Happy is just a five-minute walk from many of Gjakova's cultural sites. Rooms are air-conditioned and some have a balcony or terrace. The hotel has a terrace bar and a restaurant with garden views.

Meals: B, L, D

Driving Time: 4 hours, split among several legs

DAY 5 VISOKI DECANI MONASTERY / STONE CASTLE / GJAKOVA, KOSOVO

Leaving the beautiful Valbona Valley, we cross the border to Kosovo—Europe's youngest country, having just gained independence in 2008. Kosovo is known as Metohija by Slavs and Dukagiini by Albanians, and both peoples consider it their cultural cradle. Today is a day of cultural activities, as we visit mosques and monasteries and learn about the country's recent turbulent history from both perspectives. We'll enjoy a guided visit to the Orthodox monastery of Visoki Decani, a UNESCO World Heritage Site nestled among chestnut groves at the foot of the Accursed Mountains. Here we'll learn about monastic life and the 7th century origins of this church, which houses the largest medieval fresco ensemble in Europe. We continue towards Stone Castle, one of the largest privately held wineries in Europe, modernized with support from USAID, for a relaxing wine tasting and lunch. We finish the day in the historic city of Gjakova, whose impressive arched bridges bear witness to the former wealth of this town. We'll walk through the reconstructed bazaar where for centuries, craftsmen supplied highlanders traveling from far way. We'll also visit a caravanserai, and if we are lucky, the imam of the local Hadumi Mosque will be available for a talk. His mosque is a gem of Islamic architecture and a masterpiece of engineering.

Itinerary



DAY 6 MT. TREKUFIRI / LAKE OHRID / VUSANJE, MONTENEGRO

This morning we drive by 4WD vehicle up into the hills beyond the Visoki Decani Monastery and higher up on a new road that will connect Montenegro's coast with Kosovo's hinterland. The exact starting point of this hike can change from season to season, depending on whether there is sometimes damage to this road from the previous winter-be prepared with a healthy sense of adventure! At the trailhead, we are surrounded by mountain splendor as we hike along the border of Kosovo and Montenegro and to the three-border peak, Mt. Trekufiri (7,762'). After enjoying the sweeping 360-degree views, we'll continue, this time hiking along the borders of Albania and Montenegro, passing an abandoned border station and descending into Montenegro on foot to arrive at the glacial waters of Lake Hrid. The lake's glassy surface reflects the spruce and pine forests that surround it and we have an opportunity for a swim. Transfer to and overnight at the Moonlight House, a guesthouse in the tranquil village of Vusanje in the Ropojana Valley.

Overnight: Moonlight House

This newly built family-run guesthouse offers comfortable rooms, excellent meals, and warm hospitality. Meals are served on an outdoor terrace with stunning mountain views.

Meals: B, L, D

Hiking Details: roughly 10 miles, 5 hours, 1,500 feet ascent/2,900 feet descent (hiking details may change based on road conditions)

Driving Time: 3 hours

Itinerary



Overnight: Moonlight House

Meals: B, L, D

Hiking Details: 5 miles, 4 hours, 1,650 feet ascent/2,950 feet descent

Driving Time: 1.5 hours

DAY 7 GREBAJA VALLEY / POPADIJA KATUN / VUSANJE

Montenegro's magnificent Grebaja Valley might be the most inspiring mountain cirque in the Western Balkans, with Mt. Taljanka (6,748') perched right at the top. Traveling by 4WD vehicle, we reach the hamlet of Popadija Katun, where we hike the last section of the trail up to Montenegro's border with Albania. We'll have vistas of the twin peaks of Popadija and Taljanka, while across from us rise the sheer rock walls of the Karanfiji Massif (8,074'). The hike is steep at first but offers breathtaking views. We'll descend through a gentle beech forest, and at hike's end, celebrate in a local beer garden before returning to our guesthouse in Vusanje. Those who would prefer a rest day today can enjoy the small mountain town of Plav and Lake Plav.

Itinerary



DAY 8 ROPOJANA VALLEY / GJESHTARES LAKE / THETH NATIONAL PARK

For our last mountain hike, we head by 4WD vehicle through glacier-carved Ropojana Valley, a world of towering peaks, waterfalls, and a seasonal glacial lake. We'll visit the karst spring, called Oko Skakavice, and continue to Gjeshtares Lake, where a weathered border stone serves as the only reminder of Albania's once-sealed borders. Today as we hike through the beautiful Ropojana Valley, we may meet shepherds moving their flocks to high pastures. A serpentine former caravan path leads us down into the village of Theth in Theth National Park. In this mountain valley, there's a local watering hole where we can have a drink before heading to our charming but simple guesthouse in Theth, a village encircled by green pastures and imposing peaks.

Overnight: Villa Gjecaj

The eight-room Vila Gjecaj guesthouse provides clean and comfortable rooms and seasonal traditional food. This family-run accommodation includes the Old Tower, a traditional stone building from 1922, which preserves some of the history of the Gjecaj family.

Meals: B, L, D

Hiking Details: 7 miles, 5.5 hours, 2,150 feet ascent/2,950 feet descent

Driving Time: 1 hour

Itinerary



Overnight: Mrizi i Zanave

Albania's well-known Slow Food restaurant, the Mrizi i Zanave, located in the farming village of Fishte, is an organic farm, a delightful farm-to-table restaurant, and an agriturismo with nine comfortable but simple guest rooms. The property is beautiful, the staff is friendly, and the food is all grown on-site.

Meals: B, L, D

Driving Time: 3.5 hours

DAY 9 THORIA PASS / SHKODËR / MRIZI I ZANAVE / FISHTË

Leaving the mountains behind today, we'll drive over the winding Thoria Pass (5,396') and back down into the lowlands to Shkodër. After a city tour of Shkodër and a lakeside lunch, we head out into the countryside to experience the cuisine of Albania's famous Slow Food restaurant, Mrizi i Zanave, which is also a small and simple agriturismo. After our days in the mountains, this will feel like a different world, where Chef Altin Prenga has reinvented traditional cuisine for the modern age. The property is part restaurant, part farm, part winery, and serves incredibly tasty food, all grown and produced on site. It's a wonderful setting for our Farewell Dinner. We'll arrive in the early afternoon, which gives us time to relax after much great hiking, and we'll take a tour of the farm to learn about Albanian cuisine and see where tonight's dinner and tomorrow's breakfast will be coming from.

Meals: B

Driving Time: 1.5 hours

DAY 10 TIRANA / DEPART

A morning transfer brings us from Fishte to the Tirana airport, where flights depart from 12:30 pm onward. Alternatively, the transfer can take you to Tirana, which adds another 30-40 minutes driving time.

Pricing

TRIP COST

Prices are per person, based on double occupancy

2024

\$4,595 (10-14 members)

\$4,995 (6-9 members)

Single supplement: \$375

2025

Please call for pricing

To offer the lowest possible cost, our trips are priced according to the number of participants on the trip. All costs are per person, based on double occupancy. If you wish to have a single room, you must pay the single supplement fee. Please note that Wilderness Travel staff, or guests of Wilderness Travel such as travel writers, photographers, or leaders-in-training, are not included in the tier pricing count.

PAYMENT TERMS

\$600 due at time of reservation

90 days prior to departure: Balance

CANCELLATION & TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Up to 91 days prior to departure: No Charge!

61-90 days prior to departure: 25% of trip cost

46-60 days prior to departure: 50% of trip cost

45 days or less: 100% of trip cost

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend you purchase travel insurance. You can take advantage of a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan designed for Wilderness Travel by Travelex, or purchase other insurance on your own. See our website for details:

www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance

TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Expert leadership of a Wilderness Travel Trip Leader and local guides
- Accommodations in hotels and mountain inns
- All meals
- Permits required to cross the green border between the countries
- All ground transportation and baggage handling from meeting until departure
- All activities as indicated in Detailed Itinerary

TRIP DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Travel to and from the arrival and departure location as indicated in Detailed Itinerary
- Additional hotel nights outside the trip's scheduled dates
- Optional gratuities to Trip Leaders or staff
- Optional travel insurance
- Other expenses of a personal nature (some alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.)

Arrival & Departure

ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

Suggested Airport: Tirana International Airport Nënë Tereza (TIA)

Suggested Date & Time: Anytime prior to Day 1

Meeting Place & Time: You will meet your Trip Leader in the lobby of the Rogner Hotel at 10:00 am on Day 1.

You must arrive in Tirana the day before the trip begins, as the group meets at 10:00 am on the first day. We are happy to book you into our group hotel in Tirana (depending on availability) or help with booking a nearby hotel for any extra nights you may need in Tirana.

We recommend using an official airport taxi to transfer from Tirana Airport to your hotel. This drive takes 20-25 minutes to the city center depending on traffic. Taxis will be found directly outside after customs and are available 24/7. Taxi rates can be trusted, however there is also a small dispatcher booth with an official price list, if you wish to check the current rate before getting in a taxi.

DEPARTURE

Suggested Airport: Tirana International Airport Nënë Tereza (TIA)

Date & Time: Day 10, after 12:30 pm

On Day 10, a group transfer will take you from the group hotel in Fishte to the Tirana airport. For those not departing that same day, a stop can be made in Tirana following that.

INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from Tirana.

There are many online consolidators for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 1-800-655-4053 in the US or 1-800-670-2605 in Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most far-flung places. More information can be found on Exito's website at www.exitotravel.com.

Depending on your routing, it is necessary to depart from the US one or possibly two days prior to Day 1 of the trip itinerary. The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly, and your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the US.

Please do not purchase your tickets until you are confirmed on the trip. Once tickets are purchased, please forward a copy of your email flight confirmation from the airline. It is your responsibility to ensure your flight times coordinate with the arrival and departure logistics for this trip.

Trip Leaders

Wilderness Travel Trip Leaders have a passion and a joy for creating an unforgettable journey. We are extremely proud of them and the incredible travel experiences they make possible. For more information, including client comments about them and which specific trips they will be leading, please visit [wildernesstravel.com/leaders](https://www.wildernesstravel.com/leaders).



VLATKO BULATOVIC

Vlatko Bulatovic, of Montenegro, is a professional mountain guide with a passion for introducing his home country to hikers. With Montenegro emerging as one of Europe's newest hiking destinations, he has been instrumental in recent years in developing hiking routes, marking trails, creating trail maps and determining locations for hikers' huts in Montenegro's mountains. A former restaurateur, Vlatko (short for Vladimir) has a degree in economics and speaks Montenegrin and English. When not guiding, he can be found indulging his love for music by playing the guitar, drums, harmonica, and sometimes the kaval (the Balkan shepherds' flute).



STANISLAV SIMICIC

Stanislav Simicic, of Croatia, is a graduate of a culinary academy in Osijek. A fine chef, he was awarded a second-place ranking among all young Croatian chefs in a competition in 1997. Stanislav later worked as a chef at a restaurant in Poreč for three years, then began to manage several yachts that ply the Adriatic. He has been working with us as a chef and Trip Leader since 2007, bringing a thorough knowledge of Croatian history and culture to the trip, along with wonderful cuisine. Stanislav is fluent in English and German. When not guiding, he spends time exploring Croatia's many beautiful places with his wife, son, and friends.



MIRJETA SHATRI

Mirjeta Shatri was born and raised in Kosovo. With a background in psychology and a passion for interpersonal connection, she discovered her true calling as a mountain guide, seamlessly combining her love of nature and her innate ability to connect with others. When not guiding, Mirjeta enjoys capturing the beauty of moments through her camera lens while exploring mountain environs with friends.

What to Expect

WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

This trip is rated a **Level 4, Moderate to Strenuous**, according to our trip grading system. You will need to be comfortable hiking over 10 miles in a day and being on your feet for 5-6 hours a day. You will also need to be able to keep up with the moderate but steady pace of the group as there are no alternative hiking options available. Trail conditions, weather, and the group's level of fitness can affect hiking times and pacing.

Average Hiking Day

- 6 miles
- 4 hours
- 1,800 feet gain/loss

Challenge Day

- Day 6: 10+ miles, 5 hours, 1,500 feet gain/2,900 feet loss

TERRAIN

While the Accursed Mountains are not exceptionally high, they are steep and rugged, and this trip, while not technically difficult, is aimed at those who have at least some experience mountain hiking. At lower elevations, the trails are usually packed dirt, but at higher elevations they can be uneven, with large rocks or loose scree, so participants must have good balance and be confident on their feet. Hiking poles are highly recommended.

GETTING IN SHAPE

We strongly urge you to train for your trip, as your enjoyment will be highly dependent on your level of fitness. The best training for a hike is to hike, especially over hills or rough terrain. Next best are running, swimming, bicycling, or other cardiovascular exercises. Stair-climbing machines are excellent preparation for hiking uphill. Your feet should also be well prepared—make sure your hiking boots are sturdy, comfortable, and thoroughly broken-in. Altitude is generally not a problem on this trip. However, some people still experience a few problems when they first reach high altitude. Slight headache and sleeplessness are the most common symptoms.

WEATHER

In Albania, the climate is Mediterranean on the coast (mild, rainy winters, hot, sunny summers), while slightly more continental and cooler in the mountainous interior, depending on the altitude. In the lowlands, the average summer temperature is 75°F, with mild winters at 45°F. In the mountainous interior, the dominant factor is elevation, with big daily fluctuations in temperatures between daytime and night. The snow line in the Albanian Alps is at 4,900 feet, compared to the Swiss Alps at around 8,500 feet. In June, the meadows are covered in wildflowers and by September, the last snowfields disappear and foliage begins to turn red, indicating the arrival of autumn. As in all mountain regions, there is a chance of summer rainfall and the possibility of thunderstorms.

What to Expect

ACCOMMODATIONS

The hotels, mountain lodges, and guesthouses we use on this trip are somewhat basic given how far off the typical tourist path they are, but they are the best-available accommodations in the rural mountain areas we visit. They are well located, comfortable, and offer hearty homemade meals to fuel us as we hike through this gorgeous and lightly touristed region. It is important to arrive with an open mind and sense of adventure as we explore valleys without the tourist infrastructure you might expect in the Alps of Western Europe. Since guesthouses are often in historic rural buildings, the rooms are not always of uniform or international size. Our leaders do their best to assign rooms in a fair way so that all participants experience an equal advantage throughout the trip as a whole.

CUISINE

Located on the Adriatic and Ionian coasts, Albania has a cuisine typical of a Mediterranean country, and you'll recognize elements from Italian, Greek, and Turkish cuisine. Mixed grills of meat and vegetable (*zgara*) are typical, as well as *byrek*, a savory pie with layers of flaky phyllo dough filled with various meat, vegetables, and herbs. Typical salads include chopped tomatoes, cucumber, and onion, topped with white brine cheese. In the mountain villages, vegetable or beef stews offer nourishment, along with homemade cheeses and fresh-baked breads, and on the coast, there is catch-of-the-day fish. Lunches on Days 4, 6, 7, and 8 will be enjoyed picnic-style on the trail.

HIKING DETAILS BY DAY				DRIVING DETAILS
DAY	HOURS	MILES	ELEV. GAIN/LOSS	HOURS
1				2.5 hours
2	2.5 hours	4 miles	800' ascent / 150' descent	3.5 hours / Boating Time: 2 hours
3	5 hours	6 miles	2,150' ascent / descent	1.5 hours
4	4.5 hours	6 miles	2,050' ascent / descent	30 mins
5				4 hours, split among several legs
6	5 hours	10 miles	1,500' ascent / 2,900' descent	3 hours
7	4 hours	5 miles	1,650' ascent / 2,950' descent	1.5 hours
8	5.5 hours	7 miles	2,150' ascent / 2,950' descent	1 hour
9				3.5 hours
10				1.5 hours

AVERAGE DAILY MAX/MIN °F												
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Tirana	55/39	59/42	64/46	70/51	76/57	85/65	91/70	93/70	85/64	76/56	68/50	59/45
Valbona Nat'l Park	40/25	45/29	50/36	61/49	70/59	79/67	85/70	86/70	76/59	65/47	56/38	45/31
RAINFALL - INCHES												
Tirana	10	10	11	10	9	5	4	3	5	7	12	12
Valbona Nat'l Park	6	5	5	5	5	4	4	3	3	3	5	5

Additional Information

CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 or email us at info@wildernesstravel.com.

REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us on this trip.

ABOUT NEW TRIPS

This is a new adventure and one that we are particularly excited about offering. However, as with all new departures, flexibility and a spirit of adventure are always appreciated! Activities are described in the itinerary but they can vary, sometimes considerably, depending on weather conditions, the group, and other factors.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At www.wildernesstravel.com, you can book your trip online or find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and one-time Limited Edition adventures that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access our complete library of detailed itineraries filled with enticing photos and videos, read bios of our Trip Leaders, find descriptions of trip accommodations, and check real-time availability of any trips that interest you.

Toucan Club Rewards & Discounts



MEN'S T-SHIRT



WOMEN'S T-SHIRT



PATAGONIA SYNCHILLA FLEECE VEST
+ KLEEN KANTEEN 27OZ WATER BOTTLE



PATAGONIA R1 PULLOVER

We are very proud to have one of the highest rates of repeat travelers in the business, and have established the Wilderness Travel Toucan Club to reward you for your loyalty. For more information, please visit the Toucan Club page of our website at wildtrav.com/resources/toucan-club.

Here's how it works:

YOUR FIRST TRIP

As a first-time traveler, you receive a lightweight Wilderness Travel T-shirt and set of durable WT Luggage Tags. On subsequent trips, we're happy to send you a new WT T-shirt and set of Luggage Tags by request.

YOUR SECOND TRIP

A top quality Wilderness Travel stainless steel water bottle by Klean Kanteen and a cozy Wilderness Travel fleece vest by Patagonia (\$100 value).

YOUR THIRD TRIP

A versatile Wilderness Travel R-1 pullover by Patagonia (\$130 value).

YOUR FOURTH TRIP

Discounts on the cost of your trip begin! You receive a 4% discount on the tour cost.

FIVE AND MORE TRIPS

You receive a 5% discount on the base trip cost. On your sixth trip, you receive a 6% discount, and so on up to your 10th trip. The maximum discount is 10%, with a ceiling of \$500.

Note: Due to special pricing considerations, Toucan Club discounts do not apply to our Private Journeys or Special Events. However, your participation on these trips does count toward your Toucan discount on future departures of Wilderness Travel's regular adventures.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Toucan Club travel discounts cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount, unless otherwise specified. Discounts are deducted from the base trip cost and shown on the final invoice. The base trip cost is the main land/tier cost and does not include single supplement fees, extensions, internal airfare, or other additional charges. Bonus gifts (T-shirts, luggage tags, vests, water bottles, and pullovers) will be mailed approximately three weeks prior to trip departure. Terms and conditions of Toucan Club bonuses are subject to change or cancellation at the discretion of Wilderness Travel, Inc.



WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

- World's Best Tour Operators: *Travel + Leisure*, 2022, 11-time winner
- Best Travel Specialists in the World: *Conde Nast Traveller*, 2022, 3 years in a row
- Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips: *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row
- Best Adventure Travel Companies: *USA Today*
- Trip of the Year: *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner
- 50 Tours of a Lifetime: *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row
- Best Adventure Travel Companies: *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.

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